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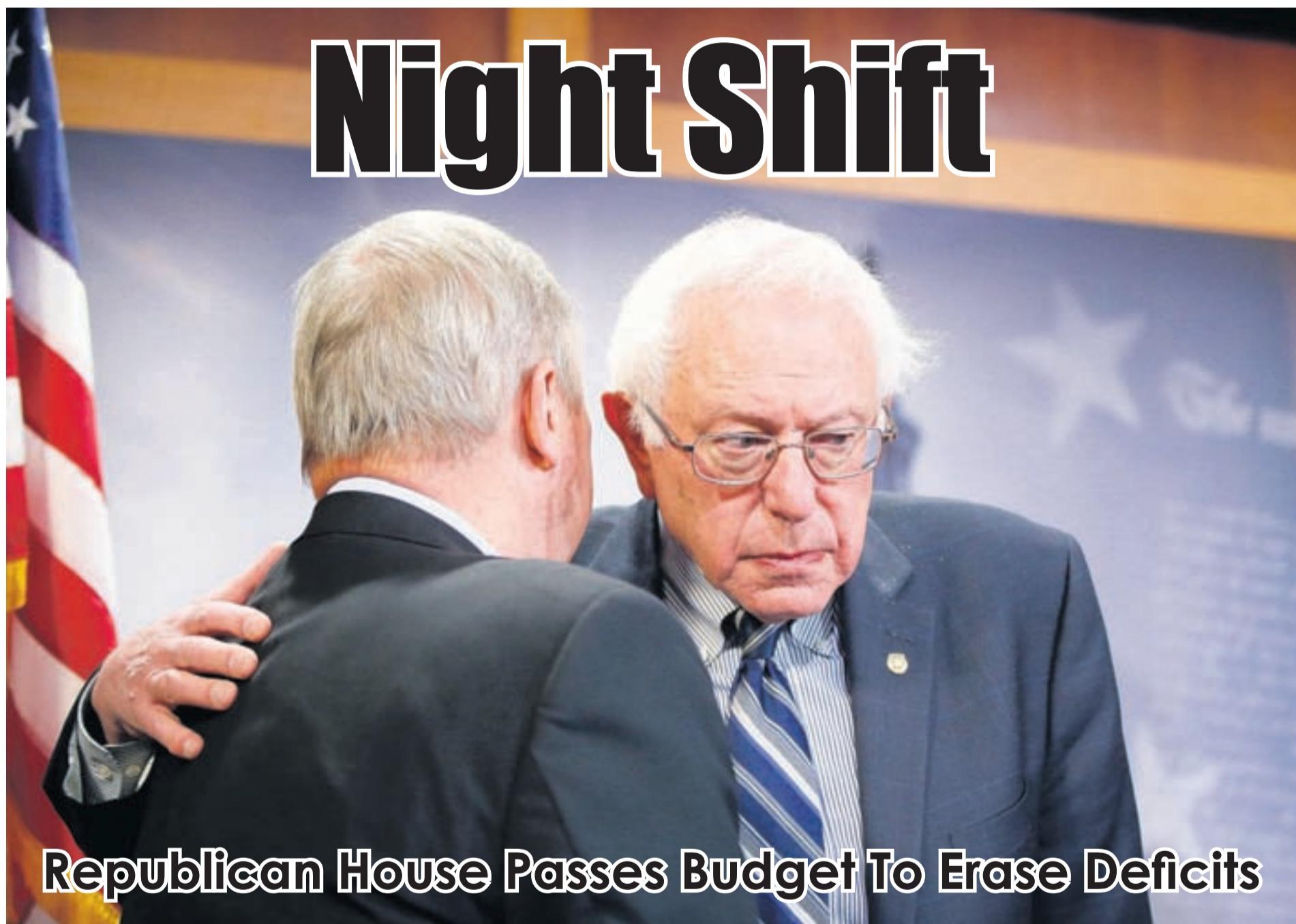


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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, March 26, 2015

Night Shift



Republican House Passes Budget To Erase Deficits

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee, right, speaks with Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to discuss the budget.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)
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France gets audio from jet's black box

GREG KELLER

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

SEYNE-LES-ALPES, France

(AP) — The last communication from a doomed German jetliner was routine. The mangled black box has yielded sounds and voices, the lead investigator said Wednesday, but so far not the "slightest explanation" why the plane plunged into an Alpine mountainside, killing

tors struggled Wednesday to solve the mystery. While alarming, the descent was still gradual enough to suggest the plane was under the control of its navigators. "The descent is compatible with a plane controlled by pilots," Jouty said. "It is also compatible with a plane controlled by automatic pilot." "At this point, there is no explanation," he added. "One doesn't imagine that the pilot con-

However, Jouty refused to confirm the discovery

French officials said terrorism appeared unlikely and Germany's top security official said there was no evidence of foul play.

As authorities struggled to unravel the puzzle, Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy converged on the remote accident site to pay their respects to the dead



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, French President François Hollande, centre, and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy pay respect to victims in front of the mountain where a Germanwings jetliner crashed Tuesday, in Le Vernet, France, French Alps, Wednesday, March 25, 2015. French investigators cracked open the badly damaged cockpit voice recorder black box of the German jetliner on Wednesday and sealed off the rugged Alpine crash site where 150 people died when their plane on a flight from Barcelona, Spain, to Düsseldorf slammed into a mountain.

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena, Pool)

all 150 on board.

Midway through a flight from Barcelona to Düsseldorf on Tuesday, Germanwings Flight 9525 was chilling in its normalcy. The last communication was a routine request to continue on its route, said Remi Jouty, the head of the accident investigation bureau, or BEA. Then minutes later, at 10:30 a.m., the Airbus A320 inexplicably began to descend. Within 10 minutes it had plunged some 32,000 feet from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet, slamming into the remote mountainside at an altitude just above 6,000 feet, Jouty said. With no distress call or other indication of anything out of the ordinary, French investiga-

sciously sends his plane into a mountain."

The BEA chief said "sounds and voices" were registered on the digital audio file recovered from the first black box, retrieved six hours after the crash and delivered Wednesday to investigators. He did not divulge the contents, insisting time was needed to decipher them. Confusion surrounded the fate of the second black box. French President François Hollande said the casing of the flight data recorder had been found in the scattered debris, but was missing the memory card that captures 25 hours' worth of information on the position and condition of almost every major part in a plane.

— mostly German and Spanish citizens among at least 17 nationalities.

"This is a true tragedy, and the visit here has shown us that," Merkel said after she and Hollande overflew the desolate craggy mountainside.

Jouty said the voice recorder, which records cockpit conversations, had yielded sounds and voices, though he refused to specify whether they belonged to the pilots or divulge what was said. He said deciphering the material was "an ongoing work" that could take days or weeks.

"There's work of understanding voices, sounds, alarms, attribution of different voices," the BEA chief said. □

Knox's defense lawyer calls Italy conviction grave error

COLLEEN BARRY

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Amanda Knox's defense lawyer urged Italy's highest court on Wednesday to overturn the American's conviction in the 2007 murder of her British roommate, calling it a "grave judicial error."

Knox faces 28 1/2 years in an Italian jail for the 2007 murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in an apartment they shared in the university town of Perugia, after being convicted by a Florence appeals court last year along with her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito. Sollecito's defense will make its case on Friday, when the case resumes before the Court of Cassation. Winding up Wednesday's full day of arguments, Knox defense lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova said the Florence court's conviction of Knox "is not justice, it is a distortion of the facts." He argued, that based on analysis of blood stains, including two handprints on the victim's pillow, in Kercher's room and elsewhere in the house the two women shared, "there is not one trace of Amanda in the room of the crime."

"We are confronted with a very grave judicial error that must be set right," he said before asking the court to overturn the 2014 guilty verdict. Knox maintains her innocence. She returned to the United States in 2011 after an earlier appellate court verdict acquitted the pair. She was awaiting the high court's decision in her home town of Seattle, and is "worried, very worried," Dalla Vedova said.

"I don't think she is sleeping much," he added.

Sollecito spent the day in court, joined by family members and supporters. Defendants are not permitted to address the high court. He remains free but his passport was seized after the Florence court sen-

tenced him to 25 years.

The Cassation Court's options include confirming the guilty verdicts, raising the question of extradition for Knox; overturning the convictions and ordering a third appeals trial; or overturning the convictions without a new trial, tantamount to acquittal. Knox and Sollecito were convicted in 2009 of the murder, then acquitted by a Perugia appeals court in 2011. The Court of Cassation, however, threw out the acquittal in a scathing decision, remanding the case to a Florence appeals court, which convicted the pair.

The judge who presided over the appeals trial that acquitted the pair said the defendants have been "devastated" by the drawn-out, contradictory decisions.

Now retired, Claudio Pratillo Hellmann, in comments to the Italian news agency ANSA, predicted that the United States wouldn't agree to extradite Knox.

Kercher family lawyer Francesco Maresca said he hoped the Cassation Court would reach a final decision, confirming the verdicts and ending the long legal saga.

"I hope that that family can remember the poor victim outside of the halls of justice after so many years," Maresca said.

The case generated intense media attention after Kercher's half-naked body was found in the apartment she shared with Knox and two Italian roommates in the university town of Perugia. Her throat was slit and she had been sexually assaulted. Within days of her murder, suspicion fell on Knox and her Italian boyfriend of just a few days.

Knox has been portrayed alternately as a victim of a botched investigation and shoddy Italian justice, or a promiscuous predator who falsely accused a Congolese bar owner of the murder. □

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Budget

Continued from Front

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Normally quarrelsome House Republicans came together Wednesday night and passed a boldly conservative budget that relies on nearly \$5 trillion in cuts to eliminate deficits over the next decade, calls for repealing the health care law and envisions transformations of the tax code and social programs.

Final passage, 228-199, came shortly after Republicans bumped up recommended defense spending to levels proposed by President Barack Obama.

The plans themselves are non-binding and do not require a presidential signature. Instead, once the House and Senate agree on a common approach, lawmakers will have to draft legislation to carry out the program that Republicans have vowed to follow in the wake of campaign victories last fall that gave them control of both houses of Congress.

Democrats rebutted that the Republican numbers didn't add up and called their policies wrong-headed.

The Republican-controlled Senate is likely to approve its version of a budget by week's end.

Still, House passage of a budget marked a significant victory for Speaker John Boehner and the Republican leadership, which have struggled mightily to overcome differences within a fractious rank and file. □

Obama praises Affordable Care Act on anniversary

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama marked the fifth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday by mocking the law's longtime critics as wrong about their predictions that its passage would doom America's health care system.

In an event at the White House, Obama said the law had decreased the ranks of the uninsured by a third, having enabled 16 million people to sign up for health coverage through the government marketplaces.

"We have been promised a lot of things in these past five years that didn't turn out to be the case," Obama said. "Death panels, doom, a serious alternative from Republicans in Congress."

The president's remarks came as the law remained under attack on multiple fronts. In a challenge before the Supreme Court this month, plaintiffs argued that a critical part of the law - the subsidies that



President Barack Obama speaks on the fifth anniversary of his healthcare law, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington.

make insurance affordable - cannot be provided to people signing up at HealthCare.gov.

And Republicans, who now control Congress, are pressing forward with efforts to change or even repeal parts of the law. In announcing his candidacy for president Monday, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, vowed to repeal "every single word" of the health care law.

Michael C. Short, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, is-

sued a statement shortly after Obama's remarks.

"No matter how much President Obama spins his unpopular health care law so Hillary Clinton can run for his third term, middle class Americans are still being saddled with higher premiums, higher taxes, fewer work hours, and canceled plans," Short said.

For Obama, the attacks may become easier to deflect, given the statistics that he cited at the event Wednesday. He said that

health care premiums would be \$1,800 higher now if price growth in that industry had continued at the rate of five years ago. He said that cuts in Medicare drug costs had saved seniors \$15 billion.

"It's working, despite countless attempts to repeal, undermine, defund and defame this law," Obama said.

"It's not the job killer that critics have warned about for five years," Obama said.

"When this law was passed, our businesses began the longest streak of private sector job growth on record. Sixty straight months. Five straight years. Twelve million new jobs."

Republicans insist that the economy would have been even better without the health care law. But after years in which the White House was on the defensive - especially when it came to the rocky implementation of the law - Obama on Wednesday was ready to simply brag about it.

"We know beyond a shred of a doubt that the policy works," he said. □

Breaking News:

Saudi ambassador announces airstrikes in Yemen

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Saudi ambassador to the United States says his country has begun airstrikes against the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who drove out the U.S.-backed Yemeni presi-

dent.

Ambassador Adel al-Jubeir says the operations began at 7 p.m. Eastern time.

He says the Houthis, widely believed to be backed by Iran, "have always chosen the path of violence." He declined to say whether

the Saudi campaign involved U.S. intelligence assistance. Al-Jubeir made the announcement at a rare news conference by the Sunni kingdom.

He says the Saudis "will do anything necessary" to protect the people of Ye-

men and "the legitimate government of Yemen." The departure of Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi illustrated how one of the most important American counterterrorism efforts has disintegrated. □



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US military:

Bergdahl may face life in prison if convicted

ALLEN G. BREED

Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina (AP) — The U.S. Army sergeant who abandoned his post in Afghanistan and was held captive by the Taliban could face up to life in prison if convicted of both the charges he is facing, military officials said Wednesday.

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was charged with misbehavior before the enemy, which carries a maximum sentence of up to life in prison. He was also charged with desertion, which carries a maximum of five years.

Bergdahl could also face a dishonorable discharge, reduction in rank and forfeiture of all his pay if convicted.

The case now goes to an Article 32 hearing to be held at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. That proceeding is similar to an investigating jury. From there, it could be referred to a court-martial and go to trial.

A date for that hearing was not announced.

The charges are the latest development in a long and bitter debate over Bergdahl's case. They also underscore the military and political ramifications of his decision on June 30, 2009, to leave his post after expressing misgivings about the U.S. military's role, as well as his own, in the Af-



An undated handout photo of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held captive as a prisoner of war for nearly five years by the Taliban. Bergdahl, who disappeared from his Army outpost in Afghanistan in 2009, was captured by the Taliban and held by the Haqqani insurgent network until last May, is being charged with desertion, United States officials said on March 25, 2015.

(US Army via The New York Times)

ghanistan war.

After leaving his post, Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban and held by members of the Haqqani network, an insurgent group tied to the Taliban that operates both in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Last May 31, Bergdahl was handed over to U.S. special forces in Afghanistan as part of an exchange for five Taliban commanders who were imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After spending about two weeks recuperating at a U.S. military hospital in Germany, Bergdahl was sent to Brooke Army Medi-

cal Center at Fort Sam Houston in Texas on June 13. He has been doing administrative duties at the base, awaiting the conclusion of the case.

The exchange set off a debate over whether the U.S. should have released the five Taliban members. Little is known about what the five have been doing in Qatar, where they are being monitored by the government. Some lawmakers have predicted that the five would return to the battlefield.

Sen. Lindsey Graham has said that he received information that one of the

five has been in touch with members of the Haqqani network. On the flip side, Afghanistan's peace council in 2011 requested the release of one of the five, Khairullah Khairkhwa, from Guantanamo because it thought he might be able to help foster reconciliation talks with the Taliban.

Some within the military have suggested that Bergdahl's long capture was punishment enough, but others, including members of his former unit, have called for serious punishment, saying that other service members risked their lives — and several died — searching for him.

A major consideration was whether military officials would be able to prove that Bergdahl had no intention of returning to his unit — a key element in the more serious desertion charges.

The Obama administration appeared to stand by the swap.

"Was it worth it? Absolutely. We have a commitment to our men and women serving overseas, or in our military, defending our national security every day, that we will do everything we can to bring them home, and that's what we did in this case," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in an interview on Fox News. □

Pressure cooker parts, BBs, found Tsarnaev's home

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Nails, BBs, pressure cooker parts and other potential bomb components were found inside Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's family apartment, an FBI agent testified Wednesday.

The items were found during a search four days after the 2013 terror attack, which killed three people and injured more than 260 others. Tsarnaev's lawyers have admitted that he and his older brother, Tamerlan, planted and detonated two pressure-cooker bombs in backpacks near the marathon finish line on April 15, 2013.

Prosecutors have said the bombs were filled with BBs, nails and other shrapnel. They have also said the bombs were made with fuses from Christmas tree lights. On Wednesday, jurors were shown a photo of a string of lights found inside the apartment.

The defense contends that Tamerlan was the mastermind of the attack and enlisted his younger brother, then 19, to help him. Tamerlan, 26, died days after the attacks when he was wounded during a gun battle with police and run over by Dzhokhar as he escaped. Dzhokhar was found more than 18 hours later, hiding in a boat parked in a yard. □



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Ghani addresses Congress, eager to rebuild Afghan-US ties

WASHINGTON - Ashraf Ghani, the new president of Afghanistan, addressed a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday, pressing his case that he is a new kind of Afghan leader who is eager to work with the United States and rebuild a partnership that has frayed in recent years.

Ghani's refrain has become familiar in Washington this week.

Since he arrived Sunday, he has repeatedly thanked U.S. troops for the sacrifices they made to aid his country since 2001, and U.S. taxpayers for the hundreds of billions of dollars they spent to rebuild Afghanistan.

"We owe a profound debt to the soldiers who have lost limbs to buried bombs, to the brave veterans, and to the families who tragically lost their loved ones to the enemy's cowardly acts of terror," Ghani said Wednesday.

"And we must acknowledge with appreciation that at the end of the day it is the ordinary Americans whose hard-earned taxes

have over the years built the partnership that has led to our conversation today."

paid off: President Barack Obama, after meeting with Ghani on Tuesday, an-

the end of the year. The two men said the troops were needed to

bloody summertime push by the Taliban.

Other U.S. officials said that keeping the current force in place would allow U.S. special operations troops and the CIA to operate in southern and eastern Afghanistan, where the insurgents are strongest and where al-Qaida's presence is concentrated.

The administration was largely in sync with Ghani even before this week's visit, having been impressed by his willingness to work with U.S. officials since he took office in September. It is congressional critics of the war, who have been put off by wasteful spending and the harshly anti-American rhetoric of Karzai, that Ghani sought to win over Wednesday.

The talking points that Ghani offered in his speech were the same that he has repeated throughout his visit: He again cited the more than 2,300 Americans killed in Afghanistan, and he stressed the need for his country to become more self-reliant. □



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani speaks before a joint meeting of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 25, 2015. House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, right, and Vice President Joe Biden, listen.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Ghani's willingness to work with the United States, in stark contrast to his predecessor, Hamid Karzai, has

nounced that the United States would leave the 9,800 U.S. troops currently in Afghanistan in place until

train and advise Afghan forces, who are doing the bulk of the fighting, through what is expected to be a

Iran to cut the number of centrifuges it uses to enrich uranium, material that can be used in warheads, and agree to other restrictions on what the Islamic Republic insists is a peaceful nuclear program.

Speaking Wednesday morning to U.S. ambassadors, Kerry assailed opponents of a deal.

"What happens if, as our critics propose, we just walk away from a plan that the rest of the world were to deem to be reasonable?"

Kerry asked. "Well, the talks would collapse. □

Kerry lands in Switzerland for make-or-break Iran nuke talks

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON/GENEVA

(AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has arrived in Switzerland to resume Iran nuclear talks as negotiations go down to the wire against an end-of-month deadline for the outline of a deal.

With just days until that target is reached, Kerry touched down in Geneva late Wednesday and was driving to the lake resort of Lausanne. En route to Geneva, U.S. officials said the deadline is achievable but

remains uncertain amid significant gaps in certain areas. One official traveling with Kerry to the talks said the American side "can see a path forward to get to agreement" by the end of March. The official said the last round of talks, also in Lausanne, produced more progress than many previous rounds when it ended last weekend. The official was not authorized to discuss the talks by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kerry is hoping to seal a framework deal to roll back

Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief in make-or-break talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The top diplomats from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia would join if the U.S. and Iran are close to an agreement.

The pressure is high. The seven nations have set themselves a March 31 deadline for the outline of a final accord they hope to seal by the end of June. Both President Barack Obama and Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have spoken against

what would be a third extension of the talks.

And opponents, among them wary American allies in the Middle East and hardliners in Iran and in Congress, stand ready to complicate the process if negotiators cannot reach a breakthrough in the next six days. American lawmakers have threatened new sanctions on Iran as well as the establishment of a process which would allow them to vote down any final accord.

The United States and its partners are trying to get

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Student who led racist chant meets black leaders



Surrounded by several black leaders, Levi Pettit, center, a former University of Oklahoma fraternity member caught on video leading a racist chant, publicly apologizes during a news conference at Fairview Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, March 25, 2015. At left is Oklahoma state Senator Anastasia Pittman, D-Oklahoma City. At right is Fairview Baptist Church Pastor J.A. Reed.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A former University of Oklahoma fraternity member caught on video leading a racist chant said Wednesday he's deeply sorry for his role in the incident and upset and embarrassed that he failed to stop it. The incident caused a na-

tional uproar and threw an unwelcome spotlight on fraternities — male social clubs that are a fixture at many American universities — that have recently been under fire over issues like sexual assault and race issues.

Flanked by several black Oklahoma City community leaders, including pastors

and civil rights activists, Levi Pettit publicly apologized following a meeting he had with civic leaders at a Baptist Church on the city's predominantly black northeast side.

"Some have wondered why I hadn't spoken out publicly. The truth is I have had a mix of pain, shame, sorrow and fear over the

consequences of my actions," said Pettit, whose voice quivered slightly as he spoke. "I did not want to apologize to the press or to the whole country until I first came to apologize to those most directly impacted."

Pettit and several other members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the university were caught on video engaging in the chant that referenced lynching and used a racial slur to describe how African-Americans would never become members. Pettit answered a few questions from reporters but declined to say who taught him the chant or where he learned it.

"The truth is what was said in that chant is disgusting ... and after meeting with these people I've learned these words should never be repeated," Pettit said.

State Sen. Anastasia Pittman, who coordinated Wednesday's meeting after Pettit reached out to her, said she believes Pettit's apology is genuine and she has forgiven him.

"I admire his courage of reaching out to me and saying: 'I want to meet with you face to face and apologize to you directly,'" said Pittman. □

Man in video is pulled from car, beaten by cops

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

INKSTER, Michigan (AP) — A pastor leading a protest Wednesday outside a Detroit-area police department threatened to shut down the city until two white officers are fired for the bloody arrest of a black man who was pulled from his car and repeatedly punched in the head. The march in Inkster came a day after TV station WDIV aired police video of the January arrest of Floyd Dent, 57.

The video shows an officer punching Dent many times in the head while another officer tries to handcuff the motorist who is on the ground. Dent's head and shirt are bloody.

"I'm lucky to be living. I think they was trying to kill me, especially when they had choked me," Dent told WDIV. "I mean, I was on my last breath. I kept telling the officer, 'Please, I can't breathe.'"

Police treatment of black men has become a major issue in the U.S. in the aftermath of killings in Ferguson, Missouri, and in New York City. Inkster, population 25,000, is 73 percent black. In Inkster, the Rev. Charles Williams II and protesters were told to leave the police department Wednesday because they were blocking the door. Chief Vicki Yost met them outside and said Michigan State Police would investigate the arrest.

"I understand your concern," Yost told Williams. "Again, we're going to let the investigation play out. ... We're going to act accordingly. We're not hiding from this." □

Dartmouth frat accused of branding members

HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) — A Dartmouth College fraternity that partly inspired the 1978 movie "Animal House" has been accused of branding new members while under suspension last fall.

Alpha Delta has a significant record of disciplinary violations, including hazing, serving alcohol to minors

and hosting unregistered parties. College spokesman Justin Anderson said the recent allegations, first reported by the website Gawker, involve incidents that happened last fall, when the fraternity was suspended for previous policy violations. Attorney George Ostler said Wednesday that the fraternity acknowledges that a small group of members voluntarily chose

to get body brands, but said the practice was never a condition of membership and has since stopped.

College spokesman Justin Anderson declined to discuss details of the allegations. After being on probation for most of the previous three years, the fraternity was suspended in October for hosting an unregistered party for about 70 people in August and for a March

2014 party that featured rum, whiskey and other liquor without having a designated server or someone checking IDs.

That suspension was supposed to end March 29, but Anderson said Dartmouth is extending it and considering harsher punishment, including permanent removal of the fraternity, if the allegations are found. □

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US Financial Front:**America's durable goods orders stumbled in February**

A worker inspects a new 2015 aluminum-alloy body Ford F-150 truck at the company's Kansas City Assembly Plant, in Claycomo, Mo. The Commerce Department released its February report on durable goods on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for long-lasting manufactured goods fell in February, the latest installment of disappointing data this quarter that suggests the economy has hit a soft patch.

The weaker-than-expect-

ed performance is pushing economists to downgrade their growth forecasts for the January-March period. But they blame temporary factors for the slowdown, including severe snowstorms and West Coast port disruptions, and have brighter hopes for the spring.

The Commerce Depart-

ment reported Wednesday that orders for durable goods dropped 1.4 percent in February, disappointing economists who were looking for a small increase. The decline was the third drop in the past four months and January's increase, previously reported as a 2.8 percent gain,

was revised down to a more moderate 2 percent. The key category of core capital goods retreated 1.4 percent, marking the sixth consecutive monthly decline in the sector, which serves as a proxy for business investment plans.

The weakness in February was widespread, with falling demand for commercial aircraft, autos and machinery. The result follows a slew of underwhelming results from recent economic indicators, such as three months of declines in retail sales to a big drop in home construction in February.

Michael Feroli, chief economist at JPMorgan Chase, on Wednesday lowered his forecast for growth in the January-March quarter to 1.5 percent, down from 2 percent previously. But Feroli said he expects a rebound growth to rebound to 3 percent in the second quarter and hit 2.7 percent for the full year, up from last year's 2.4 percent gain.

Many economists noted

similarities to the start of 2014. A string of severe storms and other temporary setbacks dragged the economy into reverse, with gross domestic product contracting at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the first quarter. The economy is likely in better shape this year. Analysts say strong employment growth over the past year should lead to solid gains in consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

"Despite the clear soft patch in quarter one, we expect a rebound... as consumer demand improves," said Bricklin Dwyer, an economics at BNP Paribas.

For February's durable goods report, transportation orders were down 3.5 percent. Excluding transportation, durable goods orders dropped 0.4 percent. Demand for machinery and computers fell, while orders for communications equipment and appliances rose. □

United Auto Workers president rejects lower-tier of wages

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The leader of the United Auto Workers union has rejected a third tier of lower wages for members who make auto parts.

Speaking Wednesday at the union's national bargaining convention in Detroit, President Dennis Williams said the UAW already has too many tiers of lower wages.

Williams was responding to reports that General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. may propose a third tier of pay. He already is under pressure from union mem-

bers to end a second tier of wages that's about half the \$28 per hour made by longtime workers.

He told delegates that he heard people talking about the third tier, which would pay less than the \$15.28 starting wage for second-tier workers, on their way in to the convention center Wednesday morning.

"I'm thinking they got too many damn tiers now," said Williams, who received a standing ovation.

Actually, a third tier of wages already is in place at several General Motors factories in the Detroit area for a small number of work-

ers who build battery packs and place parts in the right sequence to be assembled on cars. Without the lower tier, the work may have gone to Mexico or another country with lower labor costs.

Williams told members about bridging the gap in wages, an apparent reference to the first and second tiers. But he also said they're competing in a global economy.

Many at the convention spoke in favor of pay raises for veteran workers. Long-time UAW workers have not had an hourly pay raise since 2007, although they

have received hefty annual profit sharing checks. But there's no guarantee of getting checks every year. Williams didn't address pay raises in his speech, but has said in the past that there are ways to give raises and keep the companies competitive. In his speech, he said workers shared in getting the auto companies through bad times and "we must equally share in the good times."

Contract talks with between Fiat Chrysler, GM, Ford and the UAW start this summer. The union represents about 137,000 workers at the three companies.

The current contract expires in September.

The convention, which takes place every four years, sets the agenda for the union's bargaining efforts with the auto companies and other industries.

This year's talks are the first to come after the auto industry fully recovered from the Great Recession, and could be contentious as the union seeks a slice of the industry's billions of dollars in profits. Auto sales are expected to hit nearly 17 million in the U.S. this year, close to historic highs. They fell as low as 10.4 million in 2009. □

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Of Global Concern:

For business, more women in charge means bigger profits

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — When Rohini Anand took over diversity programs at multinational catering company Sodexo in 2002, she had one goal: To prove that it pays for a company to have equal numbers of male and female managers.

Sodexo, which has 419,000 employees in 80 countries, says she's done just that. A company-wide study last year found that units with equal numbers of men and women in management roles delivered more profits more consistently than those dominated by men.

"It has become embedded now. It's not just me talking about it anymore," Anand says with "I told you so" satisfaction.

Evidence is growing that gender equity is not just politically correct window-dressing, but good business. Companies are trying to increase the number of women in executive positions, yet many are struggling to do so because of a failure to adapt workplace conditions in a way that ensures qualified women do not drop off the corporate ladder, surveys show. The case for companies to act is compelling.

In a survey last year of 366 companies, consultancy McKinsey & Co. found that those whose leadership roles were most balanced between men and women were more likely to report financial returns above their national industry median. Companies with more balanced leadership do a better job recruiting and

retaining talented workers, reducing the costs associated with replacing top executives, McKinsey found. They also have stronger customer relations because management better reflects the diversity of society, and they tend to make better business decisions because a wider array of viewpoints is considered. Apple CEO Tim Cook, who came out as gay last year, told PBS it was important to hire people who "complement you, because you want to build a puzzle." "You don't want to stack Chiclets up and have everyone be the same," he said.

While most big companies now have programs to increase gender diversity, many executives express frustration these programs aren't working. McKinsey found that 63 percent of the employers it surveyed had at least 20 initiatives to address gender equity, but women held less than a quarter of the top jobs in 92 percent of the companies. Sandrine Devillard, who has been studying the issue for the consultancy for about 16 years, said companies were nonchalant about retaining top female talent when she started. Now they want to know what programs work. Fast.

That's because a woman's prospects for promotion fall off at every step of the career ladder, according to a separate survey of 130 large companies conducted by McKinsey in 2012. While women made up 37 percent of the total workforce, they comprised 22 percent of middle man-

agers, 14 percent of senior managers and vice presidents, 9 percent of executive committee members and 2 percent of CEOs.

In France, Norway, Spain and most recently Germany, governments have sought to mandate progress by imposing quotas for women on boards.

Norway had the highest

employers is to hire, train and promote talented women so they have a pipeline of qualified female candidates when they need to fill senior roles.

"We're on the cusp of a revolution," says Cary Cooper, a professor at Lancaster University Management School in Britain. "If organizations don't allow more

Pamela Stone of City University of New York, found that while men and women start out with similar career goals, women progress more slowly because of institutional hurdles and the demands of spouses for them to manage family responsibilities.

The report suggests employers need to move be-



Aromatherapist Emma Arkell poses for a portrait with one of the natural remedies for the skin and body she makes near Winchester, England. Evidence is growing that gender equity is not just politically correct window-dressing, but good business.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

percentage of women on boards — 35 percent — among 20 countries in Western Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region last year, according to data compiled by Catalyst, which researches gender equity. The U.S. and Australia were tied for 10th at 19 percent. Board quotas alone won't close the gender gap because they only address the final step in the career ladder, researchers say. The real challenge for em-

flexibility, more autonomy, they're just going to keep losing (women)."

A recent study at Harvard Business School urged a rethink on why more women aren't getting and keeping top jobs.

The study, released in December, surveyed more than 25,000 graduates of the school since 1963, when women were first admitted to the MBA program. Harvard researchers Robin Ely and Colleen Ammerman, together with

beyond the idea that "family-friendly" policies such as flexible working hours are enough. This means re-examining "unspoken but powerful perceptions" such as the assumption that women are riskier hires because they are more likely to give up their careers for parenthood. Women also have a role to play in ensuring that their spouses are "real partners" in sharing household and child-care responsibilities, the authors say. □

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President of Yemen flees by sea amid rebel advance in south



Militiamen loyal to Yemen's President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi take positions at the al-Anad air base in the southern province of Lahij, 35 miles from Aden, Yemen. Hadi fled the country by sea Wednesday on a boat from Aden, as Shiite rebels and their allies advanced on the southern port city of Aden, where he had taken refuge, captured his defense minister and seized the city's airport.

AHMED AL-HAJ
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi fled Yemen by sea Wednesday as Shiite rebels and their allies moved on his last refuge in the south, captured its airport and put a bounty on his head, officials said.

The departure of the close U.S. ally and the imminent fall of the southern port of Aden pushed Yemen fur-

ther toward a violent collapse. It also threatened to turn the impoverished but strategic country into another proxy battle between the Middle East's Sunni powers and Shiite-led Iran. Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies believe the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, are tools for Iran to seize control of Yemen and say they intend to stop the takeover. The Houthis deny they are backed by Iran.

The crumbling of Hadi's

government is a blow to Washington's counterterrorism strategy against al-Qaida's branch in Yemen, considered to be the most powerful in the terrorist network. Over the weekend, about 100 U.S. military advisers withdrew from the al-Anad air base where they had been leading a drone campaign against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP.

Yemen now faces fragmentation, with Houthis

controlling much of the north, including the capital of Sanaa, and several southern provinces. In recent days, they took the third-largest city, Taiz, as well as much of the province of Lahij, both just to the north of Aden.

In fighting in Lahij, they captured Hadi's defense minister, Maj. Gen. Mahmoud al-Subaihi, and then swept into the nearby al-Anad base, which the U.S. military had left. The Houthis are backed by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the autocrat who ruled Yemen for three decades until he was removed amid a 2011 Arab Spring uprising. Some of the best-equipped and trained military and security units remained loyal to Saleh and they have helped the Houthis in their rapid advance.

Hadi left Sanaa for Aden earlier this month after escaping house arrest under the Houthis, who overran the capital six months ago. In Aden, he had sought to make a last stand, claiming it as the temporary seat of what remained of his government, backed by allied militias and loyal army units. With Houthis and Saleh forces closing in on multiple

fronts, Hadi and his aides left Aden after 3:30 p.m. on two boats in the Gulf of Aden, security and port officials told The Associated Press. The officials would not specify his destination. Saleh said in a speech two weeks ago that Hadi might head for the African country of Djibouti across the gulf, just as leaders of southern Yemen fled. Hadi is scheduled to attend an Arab summit this weekend in Cairo, where Arab allies are to discuss forming a joint Arab force that could pave the way for military intervention against the Houthis.

The officials said Hadi had been preparing for the move since Sunday, when rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi vowed in a fiery speech that his forces will keep advancing south, referring to Hadi as a "puppet" of international powers.

Shortly after Hadi fled his palace in Aden, warplanes targeted presidential forces guarding it. No casualties were reported. By mid-day, Aden's airport fell into hands of forces loyal to Saleh based in the city after intense clashes with pro-Hadi militias. □

Islamic State group car bomb, clashes leave 17 dead in Libya

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — The Islamic State group's affiliate in Libya said it played a role in a string of suicide car bombings that killed 12 people Wednesday in the eastern city of Benghazi. Meanwhile, its militants carried out an attack on a rival militia in the central coastal city of Sirte, leaving five dead.

A Libyan security official said the three suicide

bombings, which also wounded 25, were targeting forces of Libya's elected government and allied fighters. Two of the bombings were carried by militants affiliated to the umbrella group known as The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries.

The Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for the other bombing in a post on an Internet bulletin board known to be used by the group and its sym-

pathizers. The claim included a picture of an alleged Tunisian suicide bomber it said was involved in the attack.

The attacks came in retaliation for the killing of Mohammed al-Arabi, a top commander under the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries who fought alongside Islamic State and al-Qaida-linked militants, the security official said.

Al-Arabi, who died Monday, was mourned by the Tripoli-

militia backed group and parliament on Tuesday.

The security official spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to brief journalists.

In the central city of Sirte on Wednesday, Islamic State fighters killed five in clashes with a militia from the western city of Misrata, a militia commander said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief journalists. Sirte — the home of former

dictator Moammar Gadhafi — became the second city to fall into hands of the extremist group.

Misrata, which is close to Sirte, has sent its militias to battle the militants.

Libya has plunged into chaos since the 2011 overthrow and death of Gadhafi, leaving the country with two parliaments and two governments, along with rival militaries and militias. □

Thousands turn out for Greek Independence Day parade

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Thousands of Greeks lined a main central Athens avenue despite rain on Wednesday to watch the country's annual Independence Day military parade, with spectators allowed along the route for the first time in about three years. The crowds at the parade,

where tanks rolled down the street and fighter jets and military helicopters flew overhead, were in stark contrast to last year's event, which took place under heavy security. Spectators had only been allowed near the end of the route.

Authorities limited public

access to national parades after protesters had heckled officials attending such events over the handling of Greece's financial crisis and austerity measures imposed in return for billions of euros in international rescue loans. Parliamentary elections in January saw the radical left Syriza

party form a coalition government with the nationalist right-wing Independent Greeks. The two had been among the most vociferous critics of previous governments' handling of the financial crisis, and came to power on pledges of ripping up the bailout agreement which stipulated aust-

erity measures in return for funds from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. But the new government, faced with an increasingly severe credit crunch and strained relations with its European partners, has had to roll back on some of its pre-election promises.□

Ukraine arrests 2 officials as nation watches on TV

DAVID M. HERZENHORN

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MOSCOW - In a carefully orchestrated spectacle calculated to dramatize a newly aggressive anti-corruption campaign, the Ukrainian authorities on Wednesday arrested two senior government officials during a televised Cabinet meeting. Prime Minister Arseniy P. Yatsenyuk, who was in the room, declared it a warning to public officials about abusing their offices or stealing from taxpayers.

With the cameras rolling and top government officials sitting around a huge wooden conference table, police officers in thick bulletproof vests and knit caps handcuffed the director of Ukraine's Emergency Services Ministry, Sergiy Bochkovsky, and his deputy, Vasyl Stoyetsky, and led them from the room. Both Bochkovsky and Stoyetsky were wearing dark uniforms covered in medals.

"This will happen to everyone who breaks the law and sneers at the Ukrainian state," Yatsenyuk told journalists who watched the ar-

rests.

The Interior Ministry later said that Bochkovsky and Stoyetsky would be charged with crimes including embezzlement and abuse of power.

The Ukrainian government

has long been hobbled by deep-rooted corruption and mismanagement, a source of angry, public frustration that was a factor in the street protests in Kiev last year that ousted President Viktor F. Yanukovych.

But the efforts to fight corruption and hold former public officials accountable have proved to be frustratingly slow and largely ineffective, as the new government has been forced to deal first with



A policeman puts handcuffs on the chief of Ukraine's state service for emergency situations, Sergiy Bochkovsky, during the Cabinet session in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said that the men have been detained on suspicion of illicitly appropriating funds during the purchase of oil products for the emergency services.

(AP Photo/Andrew Kravchenko, Pool)

Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea, and then with a war waged by Russian-backed separatists in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

With Ukraine's economy collapsing, officials turned desperately for international assistance. Western allies of the Kiev government have been eager to help, but have stepped up pressure for a more aggressive approach on corruption, making it a condition for assistance. Even so, a new anti-corruption bureau formed partly at the behest of the International Monetary Fund still does not have a director.

In recent weeks, however, a number of steps have been taken in the government and in Parliament, including the dismissal of the country's top prosecutor.

Last month, the authorities arrested a former leader of Yanukovych's Party of Regions, Oleksandr Yefremov, on charges of abuse of power in connection with another embezzlement scheme, this one involving overpayment by the government for coal.□

Italian, Albanian cops crack Islamic State recruitment ring

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian police said Wednesday they have dismantled a ring of Islamic extremists in Italy and Albania who recruited fighters for the Islamic State group, arresting three people and issuing a warrant for a fourth who is already in Syria. One of the suspects, a 20-year-old Italian of Moroccan origin, purportedly authored an Italian-language IS propaganda

booklet for potential Italian jihadis that was published online, police said.

The 64-page booklet "The Islamic State, a reality that wants to be communicated," describes the security and well-being living under the Islamic State but also the ruthlessness with which the group treats its enemies, a police statement said.

Police said the two others arrested were Albanian: One man was arrested in

Albania and his nephew in Turin. Albanian police identified the uncle as Alban Elezi, 38, and said he was arrested on an Interpol warrant from Italy.

Italian police said the Albanians had targeted a young Italian of Tunisian origin as a potential recruit, and that Elezi had travelled to Italy to bring him on board.

Police said the three suspects were in touch, via Facebook and telephone,

with another Italian of Moroccan origin who is among the 65 "foreign fighters" that Italy has traced to Syria.

Police said a warrant was also issued for that man, identified by the ANSA news agency as Anas El Abboubi. He had been arrested by Italian authorities on terrorism-related charges in 2013.

The Albanians were accused of recruitment with the aim of terrorism, while

the alleged author of the propaganda booklet was accused of aggravated terrorist sympathies.

The operation, dubbed the "Balkan Connection," underlined how Balkan nations are trying to crack down on the flight of Muslims to fight in Syria. Earlier this month, nine Albanian Muslims went on trial in Albania on charges of recruiting and sending more than 70 men to fight with Syrian rebel groups.□



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Graffiti boom born in tragedy brightens up Colombia capital

JACOBO GARCIA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— A vibrant stream of giant murals greets people heading in from Bogota's main airport or walking down the cobblestone streets of colonial downtown.

Stencils of pineapple-shaped grenades and AK-47 rifles arranged in a rainfall formation allude to Colombia's violent politics. Monkeys and butterflies spray-painted in bright colors pay homage to the country's natural beauty and provide welcome relief amid the Andean capital's gray skies and monochromatic red brick architecture. The proliferation of murals grew in part out of tragedy, when police shot and killed graffiti artist Diego Felipe Becerra in 2011 as he painted his trademark Felix the Cat. Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro responded by decriminalizing graffiti painting and even offered several public

buildings as canvases. Street art has subsequently exploded across the city of 8 million. By one count, there are

Canadian pop star Justin Bieber even got in on the graffiti action here, rushing after a 2013 concert with a police escort's

ies. Buenos Aires, Argentina, last year raised penalties for street art, which it considers to be vandalism. In the Peruvian capi-



A man rides past a wall with a mural of Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, left, in Bogota, Colombia. Colombia's capital is a mecca for graffiti artists, from established artists promoted on city tours that paint murals to clandestine groups that vindicate spray painting's roots as a form of social protest roots.

now more than 5,000 large paintings on walls or the sides of buildings, many now well-known to the tourists who sign up for guided graffiti tours on bicycle.

red lights flashing for the chance to scrawl on a wall. Bogota's laissez-faire attitude toward graffiti contrasts with that in many other Latin American cit-

tal of Lima, the mayor this month had city workers cover up several murals by graffiti artists. Major cultural institutions here are taking notice. The city-run Contempo-

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

rary Art Museum held an exhibition this year highlighting the work of Bogota street artists who go by aliases such as Joems and the MonsTruacioN collective. The city also recently commissioned, at a cost of around \$10,000, an eight-story-high depiction of the late Colombian novelist and Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

"It's a way to socially change the perspective of the city and give a present to people," said Nicolas Castro, a 21-year-old artist working on the Garcia Marquez mural.

But even amid the freedom, some landmarks, including churches, national monuments and traffic signs, are off-limits. "We hope that the graffiti continues, that it's vibrant," said Clarisa Ruiz, Bogota's secretary of culture. "But we also hope that young people come to recognize that not everything can have graffiti put on it." □

Argentina criticizes Britain for military boost in Falklands

P. PRENGAMAN

PAUL BYRNE

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)

Argentina's foreign minister on Wednesday sharply criticized Britain for building up its military capacity in the disputed Falkland Islands, a small increase that caused a big stir in the South American country.

Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said Britain's decision underscores an unwillingness to negotiate in the face of U.N. resolutions urging the two nations to do so.

"It's not only a provocation for Argentina but is also an insult to the United Nations," Timerman told local station Radio Del Plata.

Timerman said the decision was a way for Britain to justify increasing its military budget, a claim made by other Argentine officials.

"Argentina has no plans for conflict with any country while Great Britain is continually at war in some part of the world," Timerman said. On Tuesday, British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said the military would add two transport helicopters and an enhanced communications system to its defense systems on the islands.

The islands about 300 miles (500 kilometers) east of Argentina's southern Patagonian coast are claimed by both Britain and Argentina. The two countries fought over the remote archipelago in

1982 after Argentine troops invaded. While the dispute always strikes a nerve in Argentina, Britain has repeatedly said the question of sovereignty has been decided. In a 2013 referendum, the vast majority of Falkland residents voted to remain a British territory.

Several U.N. resolutions have urged the two nations to negotiate. Argentina claims Britain stole the territory by placing a naval garrison there in 1833. The islands have a population of about 2,563 people, according to a 2012 census.

The latest dustup began earlier in the week amid news reports in Britain that Argentina planned to lease several long-range military aircraft from Russia. The Argentine

government has not responded to the reports. A call to the foreign ministry after office hours Wednesday was not answered.

Matias Garcia Tunon from the Argentine-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry told The Associated Press that 2011 was the last time Argentina bought military equipment from Russia — two transport helicopters. Tunon said Argentina frequently reviews its military capacities and negotiates armament purchases with many countries, but that shouldn't be interpreted as preparations for war.

"We have a lot of problems within our own borders," said Tunon. "There is no possibility of an invasion." □

Trouble Down Under:**Australia a puzzling hotbed of Islamic State recruiting****ROD McGUIRK****Associated Press****CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**

— A nightclub bouncer who reportedly became a terror group leader. A man who tweeted a photo of his young son clutching a severed head. A teenager who is believed to have turned suicide bomber, and others suspected of attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State movement. All of them, Australian.

The London-based International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence reports that between 100 and 250 Australians have joined Sunni militants in Iraq and Syria. Given Australia's vast distance from the region and its population of just 24 million, it is a remarkable number. The center estimates that about 100 fighters came from the United States, which has more than 13 times as many people as Australia.

Experts disagree about why the Islamic State group has been so effective recruiting in Australia, which is widely regarded as a multicultural success story, with an economy in an enviable 24th year of continuous growth. Possible explanations include that some Australian Muslims are poorly integrated with the rest of the country, and that Islamic State recruiters have given Australia particular attention. In addition, the Australian government failed to keep tabs on some citizens who had been radicalized, and moderate Muslims have been put off by some of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's comments about their community.

Greg Barton, a global terrorism expert at Monash University in Melbourne, said Australia and some other countries underestimated Islamic State's "pull factor."

"We're all coming to terms with the fact that this is a formidable targeter and predatory recruiter that goes after individuals one by one with a very masterful use of technology, and our sense of confidence

that because we've got society working well makes us secure misses the point," Barton said.

Muslims make up about 2.2 percent of the population in Australia, compared to just 1 percent in the United States. And while many U.S.

dozens of Australians and helped them enter Syria. Once a Sydney street preacher with the Muslim group Street Dawah, Baryalei was reportedly killed in battle in Syria last fall at age 33. The Australian government has yet to confirm

turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Sharrouf's appearance on the Syrian battlefield highlighted a flaw in Australia's defenses against the Islamic State group: lax border security. Sharrouf had served a prison sentence

curity at Parliament House to cut costs. Since then, security at the seat of national government has been increased to unprecedented levels.

In September, the government raised Australia's terrorist threat level to the



In this Dec. 15, 2014 photo, armed police officers point as they stand at the ready close to a cafe under siege at Martin Place in Sydney, Australia. For a country of just 24 million that is thousands of miles from Syria and Iraq, Australia has been unusually fertile ground for Islamic State recruiters.

(AP Photo/Rob Griffith)

Muslims are from families who migrated in pursuit of the American economic dream, a larger proportion of Australian Muslims are from families who fled Lebanon's civil war in the 1970s and '80s.

Australian Muslims of Lebanese origin are largely based in Sydney, the country's biggest city. They have been less successful in integrating into Australian society than many other groups, and the first Australian-born generation of these migrant families has been overrepresented in terrorism offenses and general street crime.

Mohammad Ali Baryalei, an ethnic Lebanese who reportedly became a high-ranking member of the Islamic State group's operational command, was formerly a Sydney nightclub bouncer and bit-part television actor. Australian security agencies suspect he single-handedly recruited

his death.

Baryalei is accused in court documents of inciting from afar Islamic State sympathizers in Sydney to brutally slay a randomly selected victim. Security services recorded a telephone conversation between him and Omarjan Azari, who is awaiting trial on charges that include preparing to commit a terrorist act.

"What you guys need to do is pick any random unbeliever," Baryalei allegedly told Azari, according to court testimony. "Backpacker, tourist, American, French or British, even better."

Sydney-born Khaled Sharrouf, also ethnic Lebanese, horrified millions last year by posting on his Twitter account a photo of his 7-year-old son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described the image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-

in Australia for planning a foiled terrorist attack and had been banned from leaving the country, but used his brother's passport to leave in 2013.

Keeping would-be militants from leaving Australia, however, increases the risk that they will wreak havoc at home.

Numan Haider, an 18-year-old Muslim Australian of Afghan origin, stabbed two Melbourne police officers and was shot dead in September, a week after his passport had been canceled. He had caught authorities' attention months earlier over what police considered to be troubling behavior, including waving what appeared to be an Islamic State flag at a shopping mall.

Australian authorities were clearly taken by surprise by the growing domestic menace posed by Islamic State followers. Less than a year ago, officials reduced se-

cond-highest level on a four-tier scale. Police attempting to disrupt terrorist plots have raided scores of homes. Several suspects have been charged and others have been detained without charge under new counterterrorism laws. The nation's main domestic spy agency is juggling more than 400 high-priority counterterrorism investigations — more than double the number a year ago.

But the intensified vigilance was no hindrance to Man Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric with a long criminal history. In December, Monis took 18 people hostage at a downtown Sydney cafe, forced them to hold up a flag bearing the Islamic declaration of faith against a cafe window and demanded he be delivered a flag of the Islamic State group. Monis and two hostages were killed at the end of a 16-hour siege. □

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the best way to initiate the launch of the "It's all about YOU campaign" that has taken off to a great start since last Monday.

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lege, Centro Juvenil Washington and Grupo Scout San Dominico.

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with Mr. Tino Daal from the Activities Department of Renaissance Hotel. The top reasons for returning provided by the honorees are that they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the fantastic sun-

sets, the beautiful blue ocean, the friendly Aruban hospitality and the local restaurants.

Congratulation Jay and Debbie, you hold a special place in the hearts of Arubans! □

Police Officials Give Informative Drug Awareness Presentation



EAGLE BEACH - Johnny Kock, of the Security department at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino introduced Dennis Jacobs and Marcel Illis from the local Police Department to

members of management and staffers at the resort as they spent an informative hour, giving an interactive presentation regarding drug use in Aruba, the types of drugs in circulation,

their effects, and what they actually look like, in order to educate employees to recognize any substance and consequently any under-the-influence symptoms and behavior.

In its quest for a safe and secure work and vacation environment for both associates and guests, the resort made the presentation compulsory, and invited all staff members during their lunch break. The two narcotics officers did an excellent job presenting the drug awareness session, and were as we can see from the pictures, received with great interest by their engaged audience. □



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Divi Vacation Club Sales Team Enjoys Sunset at Sea!



PALM BEACH – Members of the sales team from the Divi Vacation Club took a refreshing afternoon break recently and set sail aboard one of Aruba's many luxury sailing ships for a lovely sunset sail across the delicate waves of Palm Beach, Aruba! The crew took off Friday afternoon from the Radisson Pier and enjoyed hours of sailing,



snacks and beverages as they laughed, danced and swayed to the smooth beats of the Caribbean. □



Fast Rental Karts at Bushiri Karting Speedway!

PALM BEACH - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill while on vacation, which is Bushiri Karting Speedway, a great outdoor Go Karting Track with fast rental Go karts available for anyone to rent. The place is surrounded with great ambiance and racing fans can challenge each other any day! Since Bushiri Karting Speedway opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 4-stroke go karts to rent all year round and also the facility



that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family.



A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules. We have 270cc 9-horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adult karts is 15 years & up.

We also have 160cc 6-horse power Honda Engine Karts for kids of 8-till-14 years old. Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You can receive a score sheet to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba! We have a SPECIAL this week: get \$5 off on your

second race and \$10 dollars off on your third race! Those who would like to race can call for reservations at 583-5278 or pass by at the track for an-arrive-and-drive session open Tuesday till Sunday from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket. More info: www.bushirikarting.com or look for us on TripAdvisor.□

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweater has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words :fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95. **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka peers out from the dugout during an exhibition baseball game against the New York Mets in Tampa, Fla., Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Associated Press

Forbes estimates Yankees worth \$3.2B

NEW YORK (AP) — Forbes estimates the New York Yankees are baseball's most valuable team for the 18th straight year.

Forbes claimed Wednesday the Yankees are worth \$3.2 billion, up from \$2.5 billion last year and matching the Dallas Cowboys for the high among U.S. teams. Forbes estimated the Yankees' revenue last year at \$508 million.

The magazine estimated the Dodgers are worth \$2.4 billion and World Series champion San Francisco at \$2 billion. It pegged the average worth of an MLB team is \$1.2 billion, an increase of 48 percent from last year.

Forbes assigns Real Madrid the high value among all teams in all sports at \$3.44 billion. □

MIAMI HEAT



2-time champ Azarenka advances in Miami

Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, sits with an iced towel around her face during her match against Silvia Soler-Espinosa at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 18

Victoria Azarenka advances to second round of Miami Open

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla.

(AP) — Two-time Miami Open champion Victoria Azarenka easily advanced to the second round Wednesday, beating Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain 6-1, 6-3.

The 36th-ranked Azarenka, the 2009 and 2011 winner from Belarus, is playing in Miami for the first time since 2012.

She missed the 2013 tournament with a right ankle injury and sat out last year with a left foot injury. "It's been unfortunate the last couple of years for me, but I love this tournament," said Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion. "I'm just looking forward to build my momentum here again and try to play as many matches as possible."

The left foot injury plagued Azarenka throughout last season, limiting her to nine tournaments. This year, she reached the Doha final in



Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, returns to Silvia Soler Espinosa at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Azarenka won 6-1, 6-3.

Associated Press

February.

Azarenka took a 4-1 lead in the first set before Soler-Espinosa held serve in the

fifth game. In the second set, Azarenka initially trailed 3-1 before winning the next five games to end the

match.

"I think it was a pretty good first set," Azarenka said. "Second set, there were

a bit too many mistakes in the beginning."

American Jack Sock, also making a comeback after having surgery in December to repair a right pelvic muscle, advanced with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Go Soeda of Japan.

The 45th-ranked Sock also spent three weeks in February bedside at a hospital with 24-year-old brother Eric, who was near death suffering from Lemierre's Syndrome.

"The biggest thing for me, in the back of the mind, to go out and play a pretty physical game," Sock said. "To be able to go out and know that I can play every point the way I need to."

Two American women also advanced to the second round.

Christina McHale beat Romanian wild-card Sorana Cirstea 7-5, 6-4, and Alison Riske topped Mirjana Lucic-Baroni of Croatia 6-4, 6-0. □



Michael Bradley from the US, left, and Nicklas Bendtner from Denmark in action during a friendly soccer match at NRG Stadium in Aarhus, Denmark, Wednesday March 25, 2015.

Associated Press

AARHUS, Denmark (AP)

— Nicklas Bendtner completed his first international hat trick with an injury-time winner as Denmark beat the United States 3-2 in a friendly on Wednesday.

Bendtner had equalized twice to cancel out Jozy

Altidore's opener in the 19th minute and Aron Johannsson's strike in the second half before driving home Denmark's third goal in added time.

"It was a bit frustrating that we had to leave the field empty-handed, especially because we lost in the

last minute," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "A tie would have been a fair result." Denmark had the game's first chance in the 15th minute when Bendtner narrowly missed after being picked out by Michael Krohn-Dehli. However, the United States

Bendtner gets hat trick as Denmark beats U.S. 3-2

was still making the better start and Altidore put the visitors ahead with his 27th goal in 78 games, a left-foot shot following a long cross.

Denmark leveled in the 33rd when Jakob Poulsen's cross missed Lasse Vibe — but was pounced on by Bendtner. The Danes controlled much of the game after the equalizer but struggled to find a finishing touch despite enjoying plenty of possession.

At the other end, though Altidore had a hard time getting free of the close marking by defender Simon Kjar, the United States was still able to restore its lead in the 66th minute.

Michael Bradley passed to Altidore, who got behind Daniel Wass and calmly sent over a cross for Johannsson to score on his old home turf.

The AZ Alkmaar striker started his professional

career with AGF in Aarhus in 2010, scoring 23 goals in 65 appearances. The Danish club plays at the NRG Park stadium in Denmark's second largest city.

Bendtner came to the Danes' rescue with an equalizer in the 83rd minute and then powered the winner past goalkeeper Nick Rimando in the first minute of stoppage time, to the joy of the 10,505 fans. Ahead of the friendly, Klinsmann had ruled out team captain Clint Dempsey, who has a right hamstring strain.

Wednesday's game was the first of several friendlies for the U.S. ahead of the 2015 CONCACAF Gold Cup. The team later will play Switzerland, the Netherlands and World Cup holder Germany. It was Denmark's first game of the year, before facing Euro 2016 host France in another friendly on Sunday in Saint-Etienne. □

MLB careers often start with winter grunt work

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

FORT MYERS, Florida (AP)

— Long before any of that Major League Baseball money starts landing in their bank accounts, most players are in a similar predicament as everyone else in the regular workforce. Between baseball seasons there are no paychecks, and bills don't stop for the winter. So they need to find some other income.

"Especially the guys who got picked in the 10th round and above," Minnesota Twins reliever Casey Fien said. "I signed for \$500 and a plane ticket. So I had to go out and earn my money."

He went to Costco.

The right arm that would eventually fetch Fien a \$1.38 million salary from the Twins for 2015 was once used for stacking crates, pallets, and boxes at the bulk retail giant's location in San Luis Obispo, California. Drafted in the 20th round in 2006 by Detroit, Fien showed up for five-hour night shifts at the store during his offseasons until making his MLB debut in 2009 with the Tigers.

First-round draft picks receive multi-million-dollar signing bonuses, but by the 10th round, players get around \$140,000 in guarantees. The bonuses drop sharply further down the board.

Minor league living is hardly large. Meal money, for one, is tough to stretch be-



In this Tuesday, March 3, 2015, file photo, Minnesota Twins bullpen coach Eddie Guardado talks with a player standing nearby during a workout at baseball spring training in Fort Myers, Fla.

Associated Press

yond Pizza Hut, and pales in comparison to the majors. The minimum salary for a player in Class A is \$1,100 per month over a five-month season. In Triple-A, it's \$2,150 per month. Prospects on the 40-man roster make at least \$41,400 annually while they're still in the minors, but that's a category that covers only up to 15 of the 150-plus minor leaguers in most organizations.

Unglamorous jobs outside the game can be important, humbling reminders for aspiring major leaguers to appreciate their athletic talent and opportunity. After all, this "regular" work can be a career for others.

Being hired can be another matter, though. Players are typically only available from October through February. They need time to train, too, so hours can be tricky.

"I interviewed at about 15 places and heard back from one," said Twins prospect Taylor Rogers, recalling his 2013-14 offseason with a Denver-area substance abuse counseling service for offenders on probation.

An internship was offered, but he couldn't make himself available enough. So he was assigned to supervise urinalysis testing instead.

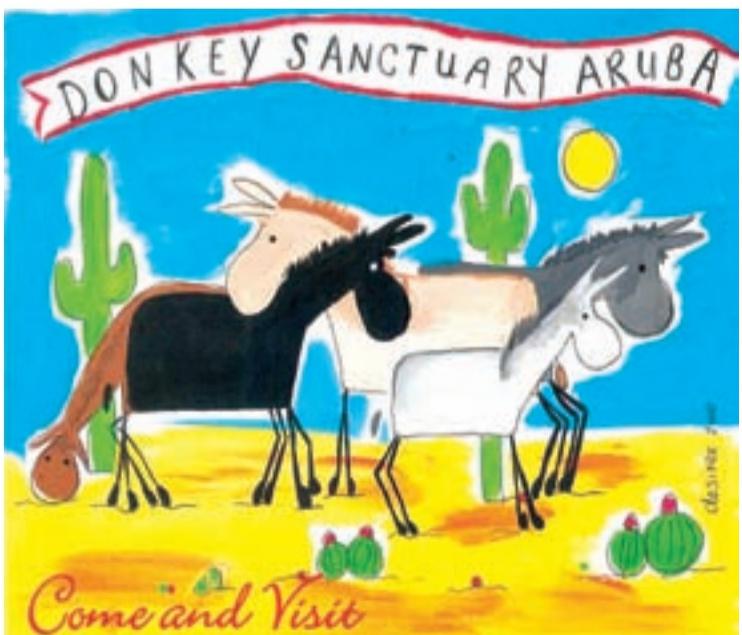
"To make sure they weren't doing any drugs. So I would watch them do that. I didn't have to handle the samples. I just made sure they weren't tampering with it," Rogers said. "It just kind of happened where I couldn't find anything else. It's tough to get a seasonal part-time job."

Rogers, an 11th-round pick in 2012 who pitched last year for Minnesota's Double-A affiliate, considered joining relatives who are firefighters and carpenters, but the occupations aren't ideal for a guy trying to stay healthy and fit for baseball.

"I was wearing my apron and everything," Hamburger said, smiling. "He was like, 'Mark Hamburger! What are you doing here?' Then I said, 'Well, you know I didn't really get too big of a signing bonus, so I've got to do stuff,' and he was like, 'Oh, nice to see you.'" Former pitcher Garrett Broshius, who spent six seasons in the San Francisco Giants system, spent a couple of winters with a cognitive psychologist on memory research. His ballplayer friends varied widely on work. One sold women's shoes at Macy's over the holidays. Another worked for a dog-walking service. Another was a Jimmy John's sandwich delivery guy.

Twins prospect Alex Meyer was a former first-round pick by the Washington Nationals who didn't need the winter money so much, but two years ago he took substitute teaching assignments for \$63 a day to connect with his Greensburg, Indiana, hometown.

"It shows you how hard it is to earn \$100, when there's people out there who work paycheck to paycheck," Meyer said. "It definitely makes you understand the opportunity we have in this game to take care of your family." □



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Warriors clinch division with 122-108 victory over Blazers

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)

— Stephen Curry had 33 points and 10 assists as the Golden State Warriors pulled away from the short-handed Trail Blazers in the second half for a 122-108 victory on Tuesday, clinching the team's first division title in 39 years.

Andre Iguodala came off the bench to score 21 points for the Warriors, who won their seventh straight to push their record to an NBA-best 58-13.

Golden State hasn't claimed the Pacific Division crown since the 1975-76 season, the year after the team won the NBA championship.

With a comfortable lead on second-place Memphis in the Western Conference, Golden State has dropped just one of its last 12 games.

Damian Lillard had 29 points for the Blazers, who have lost five straight following a 1-4 road trip.

THUNDER 127, LAKERS 117

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — NBA scoring leader Russell Westbrook poured in 27 points and added 11 assists and Enes Kanter contributed 25 points and 16 rebounds for the Thunder's fourth straight victory.

Kanter had a double-double in the first quarter with 15 points and 10 rebounds as Oklahoma City raced out to a 37-27 lead.



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) drives against Portland Trail Blazers' Alonzo Gee, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Associated Press

After trailing by 15 at the half, the Lakers closed to 70-61 before Westbrook scored twice in 15 seconds on his way to 14 third-quarter points.

The Thunder led 100-88 after three and played reserves most of the fourth quarter.

Jordan Clarkson scored 30 for the Lakers, who lost for the 10th time in their last 12 games.

MAVERICKS 101, SPURS 94.

DALLAS (AP) — Monta Ellis matched his season high with 38 points as the Dallas Mavericks rallied in the second half.

Ellis hit 16 of 27 field-goal attempts, bouncing back from his 4-for-22 performance Sunday in a loss at Phoenix. In three games this season against the Spurs, Ellis is averaging 34 points.

Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 19 points and

Danny Green added 17.

The victory pulled Dallas within percentage points of sixth-place San Antonio in the Western Conference.

BUCKS 89, HEAT 88

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Khris Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer as the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a six-game losing streak with an 89-88 comeback victory in a key game for the sixth spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Bayless missed on a drive down the lane, but Zaza Pachulia tapped the ball back out to Middleton, who buried the winner. He finished with 13.

It was a crucial victory for the Bucks, who improved to 35-36 to remain in sixth place in the conference, while the Heat fell to 32-38. The Bucks also swept the four-game season series with the Heat to ensure the tie-breaker between the teams.

Ilyasova had 19 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 16 for the Bucks, who won for just the fourth time in 18 games.

Wade had 21 points and Goran Dragic added 16 for the Heat.

PISTONS 108, RAPTORS 104

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Reggie Jackson had 28 points and nine assists, and Andre Drummond added 21 points and 18 rebounds for the Detroit Pistons.

Jackson and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope combined for 54 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in the game without committing a turnover.

DeMar DeRozan had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost point guard Kyle Lowry to back spasms in the second quarter.

KINGS 107, 76ERS 106

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 33 points and 17 rebounds as the Sacramento Kings dealt the Philadelphia 76ers their 16th straight road loss.

The Kings limited Philadelphia to no field goals and three points in the final 6:12 of the game to register their first-three-game winning streak since late November.

Rudy Gay had 21 points and eight rebounds and Ray McCallum added 11 points for the Kings, who have a 7-11 record since George Karl began coaching the team in mid-February.

Robert Covington had five 3-pointers and scored 21 for the 76ers.

In other NBA games it was Detroit 108, Toronto 104; Oklahoma City 127, L.A. Lakers 117; Dallas 101, San Antonio 94; Milwaukee 89, Miami 88; Sacramento 107, Philadelphia 106; and Golden State 122, Portland 108. □



This is a Friday, Nov. 29, 2013 file photo of the then New York Knicks forward Metta World Peace as he warms up before facing the Denver Nuggets in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver.

Associated Press

CANTU, Italy (AP) — Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace has signed for Italian team Pallacanestro Cantu for the remainder of the season.

After a series of teasing

tweets from the 35-year-old World Peace — such as "whatever you can do I Cantu better" — Cantu confirmed the news, calling it "the coup of the century."

Metta World Peace heading for Italy in 'coup of the century'

"When Daniele (sporting director Daniele Della Fiori) told me about the possibility of signing Metta World Peace, I thought that this could be the right shock to boost the squad at a crucial time in our season," Cantu President Anna Cremascoli said. "Metta will bring a wave of enthusiasm to the whole of Italian basketball and not just to Cantu."

World Peace, who changed his name from Ron Artest, was playing for the Sichuan Blue Whales in the Chinese Basketball

Association after a long NBA career which included stints with the Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks.

The forward averaged 19 points and six rebounds in 15 games for Sichuan — where he also changed his name to "The Panda's Friend" — but with the Chinese season over he has turned to Italy.

World Peace won the NBA title in 2010 with the Lakers, where he also spent a season with Darius Johnson-Odom, who has been at Cantu since August.

"I'm happy, obviously," Johnson-Odom said. "I've spoken to Metta on the phone and he's very excited about this new adventure. I'm sure he will give us a great contribution, because we're talking about an absolute champion."

Cantu plays in Italy's Lega A, where it is currently 10th among 16 teams with 17 games remaining. The team has the same amount of points as the two teams immediately above it, Gorgio Tesi Group Pistoia and Vanoli Cremona, but has played a game less. □

NHL Capsules

Quick, Kings top Rangers again in Cup rematch



Montreal Canadiens defenseman Jeff Petry, right, knocks Nashville Predators forward Mike Fisher, center, Canadiens goalie Carey Price (31) in the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Marian Gaborik broke a second-period deadlock, and Jonathan Quick shook off an opening-minute goal to lift the Los Angeles Kings to a 4-2 victory over the New York Rangers on Tuesday in a rematch of last year's Stanley Cup Final.

The Kings, fighting for a chance to defend their title, have won the first two games of a five-game trip on successive nights. Robyn Regehr scored a rare goal in the first period, and Jeff Carter and Jake Muzzin extended the lead in the third. Anze Kopitar had two assists.

Quick made 34 saves.

Los Angeles, which beat the Rangers in five games for the 2014 title, is tied in points with third-place Calgary in the Pacific Division, but the Flames hold the tie-breaker.

Mats Zuccarello scored 51 seconds in, and Kevin Hayes made it 4-2 with 3:44 left, but that was the only offense for the Rangers two days after a 7-2 victory over Anaheim. New York entered with an NHL-leading 99 points.

Cam Talbot stopped 31 shots and allowed more than two goals for the first time in 10 appearances.

PREDATORS 3, CANADIENS 2, OT

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Filip Forsberg scored a power-play goal at 1:54 of overtime as Nashville ral-

lied to beat Montreal in a game between two of the NHL's top teams.

Pekka Rinne made 27 saves in his 39th win. He pulled within a victory of the Canadiens' Carey Price in this showdown between the league's winningest goalies this season.

Mattias Ekholm and Ryan Ellis scored for the Predators, who stayed a point behind first-place St. Louis in the Central Division.

Brendan Gallagher and David Desharnais scored in the second period for Montreal, which had won three in a row. With the point, the Canadiens became the first NHL team to reach 100 this season as they try to hold off second-place Tampa Bay in the Atlantic Division.

CANUCKS 5, JETS 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Radim Vrbata had two goals and an assist, leading Vancouver to its third straight win. Henrik Sedin had an empty-net goal and two assists for the Canucks. Chris Higgins and Yannick Weber also scored, and Eddie Lack had 26 saves.

Vancouver, which also got two assists from Daniel Sedin, is second in the Pacific Division, four points up on Calgary.

Winnipeg had won five in a row. Jiri Tlusty and Blake Wheeler scored for the Jets, and Michael Hutchinson stopped 25 shots.

The Jets, are in control of

the second wild card in the Western Conference. They are three points back of Minnesota and two ahead of Los Angeles, which has a game in hand.

WILD 2, ISLANDERS 1, SO

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Zach Parise scored the equalizing goal midway through the third period, then added another in the shootout to help Minnesota beat New York for its 10th straight road win.

Parise's shootout attempt hit the post to the right of Jaroslav Halak and trickled in after it bounced off the goalie's leg.

Devan Dubnyk made 37 saves for the Wild.

John Tavares broke a scoreless tie late in the second when he jammed his team-best 34th goal of the season past Dubnyk at 19:36.

Tavares, Okposo and Frans Nielsen all failed to convert in the shootout for the Islanders.

Parise tied the game at 11:45 of the third with his 29th goal.

BLUES 3, PENGUINS 2, OT

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Alexander Steen redirected Zbynek Michalek's shot from the point into the net 35 seconds into overtime, lifting St. Louis to a win over Pittsburgh.

The Blues snapped a three-game losing streak. They rallied from a two-goal deficit on scores from former Penguins Robert Bortuzzo and Marcel Goc. Steen got his 24th of the season on a pretty deflection of a slick feed from Michalek, who spent two seasons in Pittsburgh earlier in his career.

Jake Allen stopped 22 shots for St. Louis as the Blues remained atop the Central Division at the end of a six-game road trip, their longest of the season. Blake Comeau and Steve Downie scored for Pittsburgh. Marc-Andre Fleury made 33 saves.

BLUE JACKETS 5, DUCKS 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Scott Hartnell had his eighth career three-goal game as Columbus rebounded from a two-goal

deficit to beat Anaheim for its fourth win in a row.

Ryan Johansen had a goal and an assist, and Nick Foligno also scored for the Blue Jackets. Sergei Bobrovsky made 36 saves — stopping the final 18 shots after the Ducks took a 3-2 lead.

Ryan Kesler, Andrew Cogliano and Matt Beleskey scored for the Ducks, who have lost the first two

games of a five-game road swing. John Gibson had 20 saves.

It was the first hat trick by a Blue Jackets player since Cam Atkinson had three goals at Colorado on April 5, 2012.

LIGHTNING 4, PANTHERS 3
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Ryan Callahan and Nikita Kucherov scored in the third period to send Tampa Bay past Florida. □



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MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

2D VERSION
SPANISH
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SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:10 | 7:20
FRI 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

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3D

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3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:25 | 9:30
FRI, SAT 4:25 | 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 4:25 | 9:30
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 6:55 | 9:00
FRI 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35
SAT 1:55 | 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 6:55 | 9:00

SEAN PENN | IDRIS ELBA



3D VERSION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 7:20 | 9:40
FRI 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:00
SAT 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 7:20 | 9:40

LILY JAMES | CATE BLANCHETT



3D VERSION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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SUN & HOL 3:00 | 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00

WILL SMITH | MARGOT ROBBIE



WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

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SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

2D VERSION
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Change to extra points likely in NFL

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP) -- Spice it up.

The NFL's dullest play, the extra point, appears to be headed for some changes, perhaps significant ones, for the 2015 season.

While team owners didn't vote on any extra-point proposals Wednesday, there was so much discussion and interest in potential changes that the issue will be a main focal point for the next set of league meetings in May.

"There's a clear movement to wanting to change and change it this year," said Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee and president of the Falcons. McKay's committee will "develop alternatives and be ready for a potential vote" in two months in San Francisco. Among the possibilities are moving the line of scrimmage back for PAT kicks; placing the ball on the 1

1/2-yard line for a 2-point conversion; eliminating the PAT kicks entirely, requiring teams to run a play from scrimmage; and allowing the defense to score, as in college football, if the ball is turned over on a 2-point try. McKay described the discussions as "lively, with lots of ideas ... it's time to make this a football play."

"A couple coaches said they favor just lining up on the 2 and going for the 2-point play," he said. "Or move the ball to the 1 1/2 for two points, or kick from the 15 for one, your choice." The league experimented with extra-point kicks from a longer distance last pre-season.

Currently, the line of scrimmage for both an extra point and 2-point conversion try is the 2-yard line.

Voted down as the meetings concluded was Chicago's proposal that each team get a possession in overtime regardless



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks during a news conference at the NFL's annual meeting, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

of what happens on the first series. Now, if the side receiving the OT kickoff scores a touchdown, the game ends. If it kicks a field goal, the opponent gets a possession. Unsportsmanlike penalties handed out at the end of a half now will carry over,

either to the second half or to overtime.

Lining up players with eligible numbers at ineligible positions, as New England did against Baltimore in the playoffs, now has more specific guidelines. Those players must line up inside the tackle box.

The owners also approved teams with retractable domes being allowed to open them at halftime, weather permitting, and allowing linebackers to wear numbers from 40-49; previously they could wear only numbers in the 50s and 90s. □

Sounders earn 2-2 tie with Club Tijuana

MARK MOSCHETTI

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Andy Rose, who subbed into the game to start the second half, scored in the 56th minute on Tuesday night and the Seattle Sounders rallied to tie Club Tijuana 2-2 in an international friendly.

Lamar Neagle also scored for the Sounders, who are 1-1-0 in the early stages of MLS play.

Dayro Moreno and Richard Ruiz scored seven minutes apart midway through the first half for Club Tijuana, leading Liga MX Clausura with a 7-2-2 record.

Midfielder Andy Kovar set up Rose's equalizer. From the top right corner of the penalty area, Kovar chipped the ball toward goalkeeper Cirilo Saucedo's 6-yard box. Rose got one step behind a Tijuana defender, met Kovar's pass, and lofted an easy shot high into the back left



Club Tijuana's Dayro Moreno, right, scores a goal on Seattle Sounders goalkeeper Troy Perkins (1) in the first half of an international friendly soccer match, Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in Seattle.

Associated Press

side the post.

Ruiz gave Tijuana a 2-1 lead in the 28th minute, getting on the receiving end of a give-and-go with Moreno for a shot into a wide-open net from the top of the 6-yard box.

Neagle put Seattle up 1-0 in the 11th minute. Kovar's pass across the box from the left side was headed hard to the ground by rookie midfielder and University of Washington product Cristian Roldan. The ball bounced right in front of Neagle, who headed it in from 3 yards. □



striker who has five goals for Tijuana in Liga MX play, tied the score at 1-1 in the 21st minute. Just 2 yards up from the goal line on the left side, his initial shot went across the goalmouth and banged off the far post. The rebound came all the way across the net right back to Moreno, and he sent his second try just in-

Facebook's Messenger app adding more ways to connect

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook is trying to mold its Messenger app into a more versatile communications hub as smartphones create new ways for people to connect with friends and businesses beyond the walls of the company's ubiquitous social network.

To pull it off, Facebook Inc. is opening Messenger so outside programmers can build features tailored for the service. By the end of April, Messenger will also be adding the ability to display store receipts and shipping information to help consumers keep track of their interactions with merchants and other businesses.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg touted the Messenger expansion Wednesday to about 2,000 app developers at the opening of a two-day conference in San Francisco.

"We have been building Messenger into a service to express beyond text," Zuckerberg said. He promised even more tools will be rolling out the months ahead.

Since Messenger's introduction four years ago, Facebook already has added the ability to attach video, share videos, swap stickers, make phone calls and send money.

The push to plant more features in Messenger underscores the growing importance of apps that enable more intimate and direct conversations than social networks.

Younger people, in particular, are increasingly using a wide range of mobile messaging apps to communicate with different circles of friends, while spending less time broadcasting their activities on Facebook's more expansive social network. The list of apps pulling people away from Facebook includes Snapchat, KakaoTalk, Kik, Line, Secret, Tango, Viber, and Whisper.



CEO Mark Zuckerberg talks about the Messenger app during the Facebook F8 Developer Conference Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in San Francisco.

Thanks largely to its Facebook ties, Messenger already has more than 600 million users, Zuckerberg said. Facebook's social network is more than twice as large with about 1.4 billion users.

The social network remains the foundation for one of the Internet's most successful businesses. Facebook's revenue last year surged 58 percent to \$12.5 billion, a performance that has enabled the company's stock price to more than double from its initial public offering price of \$38 in 2012. The shares hit a record high of \$86.07 earlier this week, though they dropped \$2.37 to \$82.94 Wednesday amid a broad market downturn.

The growing popularity of mobile messaging, though, could result in less time spent on social networks, a shift that would give Facebook fewer opportunities to learn about its users' interests and show the digital ads that make most of the company's money.

That threat is propelling Messenger's expansion and also prompted Zuckerberg to spend \$22 billion last year to buy WhatsApp, another mobile messaging service that has more than 700 million users.

A large segment of What-

sApp's audience is located in less affluent countries outside the U.S. and western Europe, making it more likely that it won't be adding as many new tools as Messenger has, said David Marcus, who oversees Facebook's messaging products. Most Messenger apps are installed on iPhones and top-of-the-line Android phones, which provide the processing power needed to handle a range of multipurpose tools.

Analysts widely expect Facebook to begin showing ads with Messenger as

people spend more time in the app to do different things, though the Menlo Park, California, company hasn't revealed plans to turn the app into a marketing vehicle.

The decision to allow outside applications to operate within Messenger mirrors a pivotal decision that Zuckerberg made eight years ago when he opened Facebook to other programmers. That move transformed Facebook into an even more influential, multipurpose hub for doing everything from playing games to buying gifts. □

Associated Press

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Wells Fargo cutting 1,000 jobs as it closes Milwaukee office

MARLEY JAY

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wells Fargo will close its home lending servicing office in Milwaukee and eliminate 1,000 jobs, saying fewer homeowners are falling behind on payments and seeking help keeping their homes.

Employees at the office work with U.S. residents who were behind on their home loan payments. In an emailed statement, Wells Fargo & Co. said Wednesday that as the economy has improved over the last two years, fewer customers have become delinquent on their payments,

and fewer customers have needed assistance to stay in their homes. The company says it will continue to offer assistance to borrowers facing financial hardship. Wells Fargo will close the office in late July. It says it will inform employees of other job opportunities within the company. Wells Fargo said

the Milwaukee office is one of its smaller loan servicing sites. About 48,000 people work for the company's home lending business. The San Francisco company has about 265,000 employees in total. U.S. employers have added more than 5 million jobs over the last two years and

the U.S. economy grew in seven of the last eight quarters covering 2013 and 2014, although there are some signs that growth has gotten weaker in 2015.

Wells Fargo shares slipped 51 cents to \$54.84 in afternoon trading, but have risen 12 percent over the last 12 months. □

Wall Street slumps, extending declines to a 3rd day

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors dumped high-flying technology and biotech companies and sent the stock market down for a third straight day Wednesday.

Major indexes drifted lower in early trading, following news that orders for long-lasting U.S. goods sank last month. The selling gathered strength in the afternoon, with companies like Avago Technologies and Skyworks Solutions losing the most.

Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners, a New York brokerage, said the market's fall was driven by big investors selling some of their winnings before the first quarter closes next week. The drop in factory orders also raised concerns that a slowdown in economic activity could continue.

"A weak first quarter could spill into the second quarter," Cardillo said, "and that probably leads to a poor earnings season."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 30.45 points, or 1.5 percent, to 2,061.05. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 292.60 points, or 1.6 percent, to 17,718.54,

while the Nasdaq composite fell 118.21 points, or 2.4 percent, to 4,876.52.

It was the worst day for stocks since March 10, when speculation over the Federal Reserve's plans to

dexes still trade near record highs reached at the start of the month, even though analysts expect earnings to shrink in the first half of the year. That makes the typical stock look pricey.

ity and expectations." Before the market opened on Wednesday, the Commerce Department reported that orders to U.S. factories for long-lasting manufactured goods fell in

topher Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG Union Bank, in a note to clients. "But more importantly it is another piece of data that shows the real GDP economy is running 2 percent and not 3 percent."

Among companies making big moves, H.J. Heinz and Kraft Foods announced plans to merge in a deal that would create one of the world's largest food companies. The merger was engineered by Heinz's owners, Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, and still needs a nod from federal regulators and Kraft shareholders. Kraft's stock shot up \$21.85, or 36 percent, to \$83.17.

Apollo Education Group turned in a quarterly loss as enrollment fell at its for-profit University of Phoenix. The company's stock plunged \$7.95, or 28 percent, to \$20.04. Major indexes closed with losses across Europe. Germany's DAX dropped 1.2 percent and France's CAC 40 lost 1.3 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 sank 0.4 percent. U.S. government bond prices fell, pushing the yield on the 10-year Treasury note up to 1.93 percent. □



Specialist Anthony Rinaldi, left, and trader Joseph Lawler work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investors dumped high-flying technology and biotech companies and sent the stock market down for a third straight day Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

raise interest rates helped knock the S&P 500 down 1.7 percent. Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank, said he thinks it's going to be tough for the market to sustain a strong run higher. Major in-

"We're going to have a difficult time continuing to make new highs if the underlying economy isn't following the direction of the market," he said. "At some point we're going to hit the intersection of real-

February for the third time in four months. Demand for commercial aircraft, cars and machinery waned. "You can put this durables report into your Surprise Index as it missed market expectations," said Chris-

Comcast says \$45B Time Warner Cable deal to take longer

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Comcast says its \$45 billion purchase of Time Warner Cable will take longer than expected because of a long-running regulatory review.

The country's largest cable company wants to buy Time Warner Cable Inc., the No. 2 cable provider,

to create an Internet and TV giant that would serve nearly 30 percent of cable TV subscribers and more than half of high-speed Internet subscribers.

The Federal Communications Commission and Justice Department are still reviewing the deal, which was announced in February 2014.

Consumer advocates have expressed concern that Comcast would have control over too much of the country's Internet access.

Comcast said in a blog post Wednesday that it now expects the FCC's review to finish in the middle of the year. It had predicted the deal would close in early

2015. The FCC has delayed its review because of a court case that is pending. In that case, content providers such as The Walt Disney Co. don't want the FCC to show documents filed with the government that contain private information, such as its contracts with pay TV companies, to lawyers and other

people outside the agency.

A federal court in Washington, D.C., heard arguments in the case in February but hasn't issued a decision yet.

Philadelphia-based Comcast Corp. has called the case a "procedural matter" related to its Time Warner Cable deal. □

Bosses can't get even when staff gripes on social media

JOYCE ROSENBERG

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bosses can get mad when staffers vent on social media about their jobs, but they may not be able to get even.

When one of Bert Martinez' employees posted gripes about her job and the boss on Facebook last year, the publicist consulted his lawyer, who said the staffer couldn't be fired.

"The first lesson I learned is, employees are allowed to vent," says Martinez, owner of Bert Martinez Communications in Phoenix. "If they're saying, hey, it's hard working here and I find this environment unpleasant, you can't fire them for that."

The employee quit a week after Martinez learned about the post.

The government protects workers' rights to say what they want about where they work, even if it's in a vitriolic and insulting tweet or post. It's illegal for an employee to be fired for a post about working conditions, whether it's pay, hours, assignments, difficult supervisors, dress code, or any other issue. So employers shouldn't try to restrict workers' freedom of speech or retaliate if there's a post they don't like.

It's an issue that companies of all sizes have to deal with, but it's often more challenging for smaller companies because they typically don't have large human resources departments or lawyers on staff to advise them.

WHAT'S PROTECTED: Workers who complain about employers on social media can't be fired if they're involved in what's called concerted activity, or joining with fellow staffers to improve working conditions, according to the National Labor Relations Board, the government agency responsible for upholding workers' rights.

"The NLRB is effectively taking the position that commentary about working conditions on social media is completely protected," says Henry Perlowski, an employment law attorney with Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta.

A 2014 NLRB decision shows how broadly the agency views employees' rights to make such critical posts, Perlowski says. The NLRB said a restaurant illegally fired two workers for taking part in a Facebook discussion of problems in how income tax was withheld from paychecks. The discussion mentioned a meeting about the issue. One employee was fired for a comment that contained an expletive describing one owner, and the other was dismissed for "liking" a post.

Because the posts were related to working conditions, and the employees were discussing concerted activity, or jointly seeking a resolution of their problems, the posts were protected. The NLRB reversed the firings. Owners also can't resort to other disciplinary measures, Perlowski says. That rules out suspensions, reprimands, pay cuts and promotion denials.

... AND WHAT'S NOT: The NLRB will uphold firings based on posts that damage a company, disparage its products or services or reveal trade secrets or financial information, says Paula Lopez, an employment law attorney with Allyn & Fortuna in New York. But there can be gray area, for example, when a post is critical of a company's or services but is also related to working conditions.

Posts encouraging insubordination aren't protected, Lopez says, citing a 2014 case that upheld an employers' decision not to rehire workers who had posted plans to show up at the job and not do work. □

HJ Heinz buys Kraft to build \$28B food giant

M. CHAPMAN

CANDICE CHOI

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Some of the most familiar names in ketchup, pickles, cheese and hot dogs are set to come under the same roof after H.J. Heinz Co. announced plans Wednesday to buy Kraft and create one of the world's largest food and beverage companies.

have been slashing costs or striking deals to update their products offerings. The Heinz-Kraft deal is in many ways just the latest example of that, although Buffett noted that the two companies still have a strong base of customers. "I think the tastes Kraft and Heinz appeal to are pretty enduring," he said in a telephone call to the businessnews channel CNBC.

Inc. The companies say they expect the deal to close in the second half of the year.

If the agreement goes through, Kraft is expected to undergo cost-cutting under the management of 3G Capital, which is known for running tight ships.

John Cahill, who took over as CEO of Kraft late last year, noted that the new management would drive



Containers of Heinz ketchup are seen on the shelf of a market, in Barre, Vt. H.J. Heinz Co. is buying Kraft Foods Group Inc., creating what the companies say will be the third-largest food and beverage company in North America, the companies announced Wednesday, March 25, 2015. (AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

The deal would bring together an array of long-time staples in American kitchens, including Oscar Mayer lunchmeats, Jell-O desserts, Miracle Whip spreads, Ore-Ida potatoes and Smart Ones diet foods. The combination of the two companies — each more than a century old — was engineered by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, which teamed up just two years ago to buy Heinz. While shoppers are not expected to see any major changes, the creation of The Kraft Heinz Co. reflects the pressures facing some of the biggest packaged food makers in the U.S.

As consumers increasingly migrate away from popular packaged foods in favor of options they consider less processed, companies including Campbell Soup, General Mills and Kellogg

Still, the early plans outlined by Kraft and Heinz executives in a conference call Wednesday focused largely on the savings that would be achieved through the deal, rather than the potential for sales growth in North America. They said they expect to save \$1.5 billion through moves such as combining manufacturing and distribution networks.

James Angel, an associate professor of finance at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, said that will probably result in job losses. "Even though it is painful for the people involved, those resources will be freed up for other, potentially more productive, uses," he said. The boards of both companies unanimously approved the deal, which still needs a nod from federal regulators and shareholders of Kraft Foods Group

a "much leaner organization," as was the case when 3G took over Heinz. He said 3G can "make this happen deeper and faster."

"What we have not been thrilled about is some of our execution," Cahill said.

The two companies also see potential in pushing their products more aggressively overseas. Since splitting from Mondelez in 2012, Kraft's business has been primarily concentrated in North America. But executives noted that Kraft's brands are well known in major markets around the world, including the United Kingdom, Mexico, China and Brazil.

Already, Heinz gets 61 percent of sales from outside North America, said Bernardo Hees, the CEO of Heinz and a partner at 3G Capital who will become head of the newly created company. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3	5		1						
			7	5		8						
			9	6	7							
				6	3							
1	6				9	4						
2	7											
3	8		1									
5	7	9										
2	4	5										

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

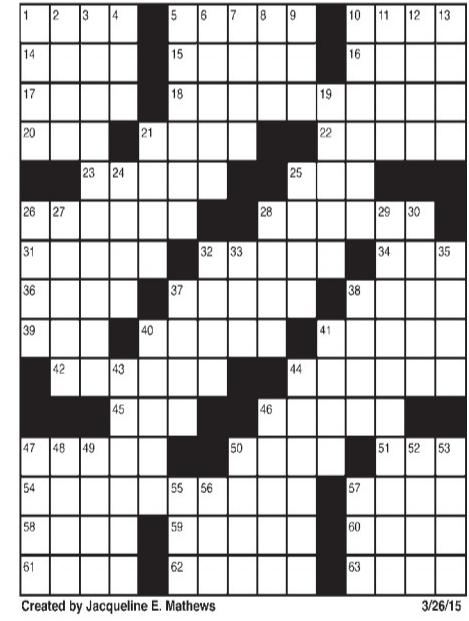
6	8	1	2	9	4	7	5	3				
5	2	4	6	3	7	9	8	1				
3	9	7	8	5	1	6	4	2				
9	5	2	1	7	8	4	3	6				
7	6	8	4	2	3	5	1	9				
4	1	3	9	6	5	8	2	7				
2	4	6	3	8	9	1	7	5				
1	3	5	7	4	6	2	9	8				
8	7	9	5	1	2	3	6	4				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3/26

ACROSS

- 1 Peru's capital
- 5 ___ up; supports
- 10 Bathtub ring
- 14 Change for a five
- 15 "M*A*S*H" role
- 16 Without ___; in despair
- 17 \$20-bill spewers, for short
- 18 Overweigh in importance
- 20 Cow's remark
- 21 Gorillas and chimpanzees
- 22 Unlocks
- 23 Hits the ceiling
- 25 Take to court
- 26 Foolish talk
- 28 Henry & Peter
- 31 Levels, as a building
- 32 Beg
- 34 Sever
- 36 Suffix for an inflammation
- 37 Inexpensive
- 38 A, ___, F, G...
- 39 Brooch
- 40 Lift with effort
- 41 Idaho's capital
- 42 Mean woman in a fairy tale
- 44 ___ Knight & the Pips
- 45 Cereal grain
- 46 Terre ___, IN
- 47 Kareem ___, Jabbar
- 50 ___ one's time; wait
- 51 Org. for Hawks and Hornets
- 54 Comforting
- 57 Part of a constellation
- 58 Lunch spot
- 59 Elbow
- 60 Date tree
- 61 Shacks
- 62 Beginning; start
- 63 Stein drinks
- 64 ___ off; riles
- 65 Expense
- 66 Dinghy or dory
- 67 Brave deed
- 68 Not done on purpose
- 69 Foam-topped
- 70 Greek letters
- 71 French article
- 72 Rich soil
- 73 ___ 20 is 5
- 74 Part of the foot
- 75 Boyfriend
- 76 Foolish
- 77 eBay offers
- 78 Hay bundle
- 79 Upper limbs
- 80 One, in Spain
- 81 Gallop
- 82 Key



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

POD	JERKS	CLAW
HUES	ARENA	OUCH
DRA	CRIER	NATO
SLACKENED	CUSS	
TOED	IOU	
ABDUCT	CONFRONT	
GREEK	BRIEF	TAU
AILS	FEELS	CHIN
TAT	LOBES	PEEVE
ENAMORED	SOARED	
ASS	TOSS	
CHIC	ANARCHIST	
AURA	KODAK	NOAH
PLOW	EVADE	GALE
SANS	NAMED	KEY

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3/26/15

- 3 Learning by heart
- 4 Long-eared animal
- 5 Drive forward
- 6 ___ about; touts
- 7 Elegant poems
- 8 ___ for the course; normal
- 9 Fathers of Jrs.
- 10 Molded
- 11 Zip ___; part of an address
- 12 Come ___; find
- 13 Kitten cries
- 14 Dog
- 21 Eras
- 24 Hail Marys, for short
- 25 Daytime serial
- 26 Faucet problem
- 27 Numerical comparison
- 28 Brave deed
- 29 Not done on purpose
- 30 Foam-topped
- 31 Greek letters
- 32 French article
- 33 Rich soil
- 34 ___ 20 is 5
- 35 ___ off; riles
- 36 Expense
- 37 Dinghy or dory
- 38 Brave deed
- 39 Makes well
- 40 Sad
- 41 Hay bundle
- 42 Upper limbs
- 43 Awakens
- 44 Gizmo
- 45 Door hanger's metal piece

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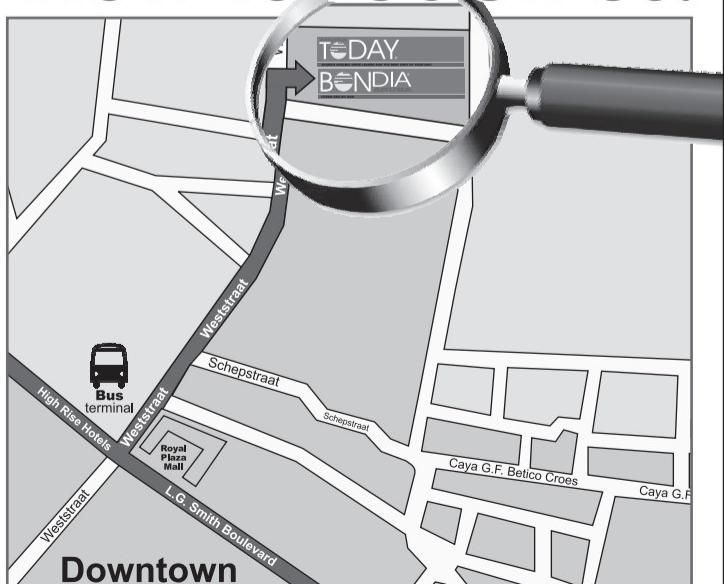


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Science, patients driving rare disease drug research surge

LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Business Writer

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)

— The global pharmaceutical industry is pouring billions of dollars into developing treatments for rare diseases, which once drew little interest from major drugmakers but now point the way toward a new era of innovative therapies and big profits.

The investments come as researchers harness recent scientific advances, including the mapping of the human genome, sophisticated and affordable genetic tests and laboratory robots that can screen thousands of compounds per hour in search of the most potent ones.

"It's a very, very promising time," said Jimmy Lin, a U.S. National Institutes of Health cancer researcher who co-founded the Rare Genomics Institute.

By definition, a rare disease is one that strikes fewer than 200,000 Americans, sometimes only a few dozen. But with 7,000 rare diseases known to doctors, and more emerging all the time, nearly 1 in 10 Americans has a rare disease. For most, there is no treatment, let alone a cure. Just getting an accurate diagnosis often requires a medical odyssey, and 30 percent of children with a rare disease die before age 5.

For decades, drugmakers were reluctant to invest in



In this Feb. 24, 2015 photo, Eliza O'Neill, 5, walks past a wall she has drawn on at her home in Columbia, S.C. Eliza's parents, Glenn and Cara O'Neill, started the Cure Sanfilippo Foundation in hopes of saving their daughter, who is beginning to lose her ability to speak.

Associated Press

rare-disease treatments, preferring to focus on mass-market drugs for cholesterol, heart trouble and other common problems. Then, a decade ago, patents on some of the industry's most lucrative medicines began to expire, and cheap generic drugs started wiping out tens of billions of dollars in annual revenue.

So many companies shifted money to rare-disease drugs, knowing that those medicines cost less to develop and will face limited competition. Some already sell for \$100,000 or more for a year of treatment,

although drugmakers usually give financial aid to patients and big discounts to insurers and government health programs.

"They're recreating the blockbuster," said analyst Steve Brozak of WBB Securities. "There's more money, fewer patients and it's 10 times easier to defend high prices to payers."

Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a record 17 medicines for rare diseases. More than 450 others are in development to treat a wide variety of ailments — rare cancers, sickle-cell dis-

ease, the hormonal disorder Cushing's disease and a bleeding ailment called thrombocytopenic purpura, as well as hemophilia, Hodgkin's lymphoma and pulmonary fibrosis.

Patient-advocacy groups are getting better at raising money for research and building registries of patients that could be used to recruit participants for drug studies, a process that otherwise can take years.

In the 1970s, only a handful of rare-disease drugs got approved. Then the 1983 Orphan Drug Act helped

rouse interest by providing expedited drug reviews, tax credits and other benefits for drug companies.

Since then, about 220 medicines have been approved — 93 in the last decade.

For diabetes, heart and other common medications, drugmakers must test treatments on thousands of patients, usually through three rounds of studies lasting roughly seven years total. Counting initial cell and animal studies, and regulatory review at the end, the process easily takes a decade and more than \$1 billion. But for rare diseases, the drugs are tested on much smaller groups, sometimes just a few hundred or few dozen. And patient testing can wrap up a couple of years sooner. That, plus government financial incentives, can cut development costs by one-third to one-half, and approval is nearly assured.

Big drugmakers do not disclose how much they invest in rare diseases. The returns can be huge, though. Pfizer Inc. made \$3.53 billion last year selling rare-disease treatments, not counting its 10 cancer drugs for patients with specific genetic mutations.

By 2019, 34 rare-disease drugs could have annual sales exceeding \$1 billion each, according to a forecast by research firm GlobalData. □

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'Mad Men' star Hamm has treatment for alcohol addiction



In this Dec. 18, 2014 file photo, Jon Hamm, left, and Jennifer Westfeldt arrive at The People Magazine Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A spokeswoman for "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm says the actor recently completed treatment for alcohol addiction. Hamm had the support of his longtime partner, actress-filmmaker Jennifer Westfeldt, in his struggle, publicist Annett Wolf said in a statement Tuesday. The couple asks for privacy and sensitivity, the statement said. No fur-

ther details were provided. The disclosure, first reported by the TMZ website, came as the final season of the 1960s-set advertising agency drama begins April 5 on AMC.

The 43-year-old Hamm plays Don Draper, a troubled advertising executive with a dark past. The role brought him stardom and repeated Emmy Award nominations. □

Taraji P. Henson says her son was racially profiled

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Taraji P. Henson says her 20-year-old son is transferring to Howard University after being racially profiled by police at the University of Southern California. The "Empire" star made the comments in the latest issue of Uptown magazine, which features her on the cover.

Henson said her son, Marcel, was stopped by police on the Los Angeles campus "for having his hands in his pockets." She said he now plans to attend her alma mater, the historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C.

The chief of USC's Department of Public Safety said in a statement Tuesday that any allegation of unequal treatment by university officers would trigger an investigation. Chief



In this Thursday, March 12, 2015 file photo, Taraji P. Henson attends the LA Academy Screening of "Empire" at the Theater at the Ace Hotel, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

John Thomas said he was racially profiled as a teenager and was "deeply disturbed" to learn that Henson's son felt profiled because of his race.

A publicist for Henson asked for privacy for her son Tuesday and said there would be no further comment. □



In this Sept. 7, 2014 file photo, actor Bill Nighy attends a press conference for "Pride" at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

Associated Press

Bill Nighy on his long relationship with the play 'Skylight'

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Most people these days binge on "The Walking Dead" or "House of Cards." Bill Nighy binges on Virginia Woolf. The English actor known for such films as "Love Actually" and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise is currently reading "The Voyage Out" — his fifth Woolf book in a row.

"It's taken me all my life to get to Virginia Woolf and I realize, as usual, I've been postponing something completely marvelous," he said. "I just find them completely compelling."

That Nighy would be gorging on an eminent novelist from the inter-war period seems to speak to both the actor's intellectual motor and his childlike glee. Actually, he's in town for another sort of binge — his 10th project with playwright David Hare. In the play "Skylight," Carey Mulligan plays a woman who works at an inner-city high school and receives an unexpected visit one night from her ex-lover, a recently widowed and wealthy restaurateur played by Nighy.

It's Nighy's first return to the New York stage since 2006 and he admits to some

nerves. "I just sit here thinking, 'Why aren't I on a film set with somebody bringing me a Snickers bar and a triple macchiato?' I'm like, 'Why do I put myself through this?' Truly," he said. "I'm not even kidding."

Nighy has arrived at rehearsals at the Golden Theatre in one of his trademark tailored suits and a pair of dark-rimmed glasses. His sweepingly long hair, honest grace and self-deprecating charm have made him a sex symbol in his 60s.

Asking him about it makes him squirm a little. "I wouldn't even dare to speculate what women think in that area. I just wouldn't, honestly," he said. "If you ever find me posing as an expert in that area, call a cab."

"Skylight," which has transferred from a well-received run in the West End last summer, also stars Matthew Beard, who plays Nighy's son. Beard was terrified when he made his stage debut in London, but, to his delight, his older costar constantly checked to make sure he was OK and happy. "You can tell he has a great soul just from watching him. But knowing how far that reaches, how much he truly does care passionately about everyone he's

working with, is incredible," Beard said.

Nighy, whose latest films include "Pride" and "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," remembers first seeing "Skylight" when it made its world debut in 1995 in London starring Michael Gambon in the role he is now playing. Nighy was "bowled over."

"When I saw 'Skylight,' I sword-fenced all the way home, as it were. Like, when you were a kid and you went to the pictures and you'd see a sword-fighting movie you would sword-fight all the way home," he said. "Or if you saw a gangster movie, you'd shoot and jump over cars and hide behind trees. I was exactly like that when I saw 'Skylight.'"

Nighy first tried his hand at the play in 1997 but only after first declining the offer three times. He agreed only after Hare finally called. Nighy admits he was intimidated: "I invented it something out of my range."

Picking up "Skylight" again is not part of Nighy's pattern since he prefers debuting new works, including Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," Joe Penhall's "Blue/Orange" and Hare's "Map of the World." But "Skylight" is something special. □

'Stand by Me' among 25 records being preserved at U.S. library



In this Nov. 15, 2011 file photo, American soul singer Ben E. King speaks during a news conference in Tokyo.

Associated Press

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the most broadcast songs of the 20th century, Ben E. King's "Stand by Me," has been selected for preservation at the Library of Congress, along with recordings from Joan Baez, The Righteous Brothers, Steve Martin and the darker sounds of the band Radiohead.

Twenty-five sound recordings spanning from 1890 to 1999 were added Wednesday to the library's National Recording Registry. Each year the library chooses recordings that are "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

Some of the unforgettable tunes being archived include "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive" from Johnny Mercer in 1944, Baez's first solo album (1960), The Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" (1964) and Steve Martin's "A Wild and Crazy Guy" comedy album (1978), which broke new ground as Martin broke out of formulaic jokes and punchlines for less predictable humor.

Upon hearing of his archive-worthy achievement, Mar-

tin deadpanned: "I could not be more proud of this honor. This means the record was probably funny." The Library of Congress has been seeking to preserve important sound recordings for 15 years under terms of a preservation act passed by Congress.

In the 1960s, King originally intended his song "Stand by Me" for his former group, the Drifters, but he ended up recording it himself. The song is anchored by one of the best-known bass lines in history, curators said. A few years later, The Righteous Brothers were recording "Lovin' Feelin'." They thought the song was wrong for them at first but ended up with a hit.

The oldest recordings being saved are in the form of 600 wax cylinder recordings at the University of California, Santa Barbara, that were recorded by consumers in the 1890s, 1900s and 1910s as snapshots of everyday life. These are among the most endangered audio formats because their grooves are fragile and the wax degrades over time. Another set of wax-cylinder recordings from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair cap-

tured sounds of musicians from around the world performing at the fair, giving Americans their first exposure to "world music."

Other historic recordings chosen for preservation include radio coverage of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's funeral in 1945 and the 1953 theatrical recording of "John Brown's Body," based on a Civil War poem that proved commercially successful as a non-musical play.

Curators also deemed some more recent recordings worthy of preservation, including tunes from TV's "Sesame Street." The children's show used music as an integral part of its educational program and drew stars ranging from B.B. King to R.E.M. and the Dixie Chicks. The library chose the 1995 recording "Sesame Street: All-Time Platinum Favorites" for the registry.

Public nominations lifted Radiohead's 1997 album "OK Computer" to the curators' attention after several years, with an album's information-age dystopia characterized by corrupt politicians, psychopaths, consumerism and airline disasters. □

Cover design unveiled for new Harper Lee novel

BY HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

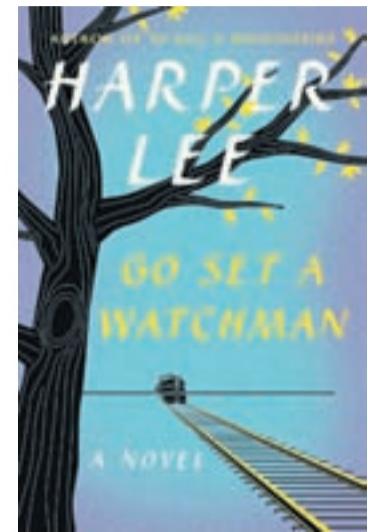
NEW YORK (AP) — The cover for Harper Lee's new novel will surely remind you of the cover for her old one. On Wednesday, HarperCollins unveiled the jacket art for Lee's "Go Set a Watchman," the unexpected follow-up to her classic "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The new cover, like the one for "To Kill a Mockingbird," is a moody illustration featuring an oak tree in front, but also shows train tracks and a train in the distance. In a statement released by HarperCollins, company President Michael Morrison noted that "Go Set a Watchman" begins with "Mockingbird" protagonist Scout Finch returning by train 20 years later, in the 1950s, to her native Alabama.

"There are so many wonderful parts of 'Go Set a Watchman' that it was hard to pick just one iconic image to represent the book," Morrison said. "This design is perfect — it draws on the style of the decade the book was written, but with a modern twist."

British publisher Penguin Random House unveiled a different cover for the book's U.K. and Commonwealth edition — an orange-red jacket featuring a bird on branch and the words "by the author of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'" prominently displayed along with the title.

Jonathan Burnham, a publisher and senior vice president at HarperCollins, said that creating an entirely new image had "certainly crossed our minds," but that he and others kept coming back "to the central idea that the cover should in some ways connect to 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'" An oak tree, "Mockingbird" fans know, can be found on the property where the reclusive Boo Radley lives, in Lee's fictional Maycomb, Alabama.



This book cover released by Harper shows "Go Set A Watchman," a follow-up to Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird." The book will be released on July 14.

Associated Press

HarperCollins has announced a first printing of 2 million copies and a July 14 release date for "Watchman." Pre-orders have kept the book high on Amazon.com's best-seller list despite ongoing concerns about the quality of the novel, which Lee wrote before "Mockingbird," and about the 88-year-old Lee's involvement in the publication. She has long expressed satisfaction with having "Mockingbird," which came out in 1960, as her only published book and has avoided the press for decades.

According to HarperCollins, a complete manuscript for "Go Set a Watchman" was discovered last year by Lee's attorney, Tonja Carter. State investigators in Alabama recently looked into whether publishing "Go Set a Watchman" involved financial fraud. Lee, who has been in frail health and lives in an assisted-living facility in her hometown of Monroeville, answered questions to the satisfaction of the Alabama Securities Commission and that part of the inquiry was closed, a state official said earlier this month. The status of the larger investigation by Alabama's Department of Human Resources is unclear. □

Traitors to Their Class



TIMOTHY EGAN

© 2015 New York Times

You probably know from his weepy reminiscences that the speaker of the House, John Boehner, once worked as a bartender and a janitor, and took seven years to get out of college. Maybe you've heard that Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin is a preacher's son who churned out burgers and fries at McDonald's. And you had to catch that bit from Sen. Joni Ernst about putting bread bags over her shoes while growing up kind of poor in rural Iowa.

People from humble beginnings often carry an extra load of empathy through the success of their later lives, a sense that, with a few bad breaks, things could have gone the other way.

And there's the party of tough luck, pal. In the case of the three Republican leaders cited above, and most of those who aspire to be the GOP presidential nominee next year, these Horatio Algerians for the new Gilded Age are working to keep the down-trodden down. They are traitors to their class, with all the strutting moral superiority that comes with the conversion. Ernst, the lump-of-coal-hearted new senator from Iowa, and Walker, who always seems to be promoting something that needs actuarial tables to disguise, at times sound as if they actively despise the poor.

Last fall, Walker opposed raising the minimum wage in Wisconsin from the poverty-level \$7.25 an hour. After a group of workers claimed that the threshold violated a state mandate to offer a "living wage," his administration slapped them down. Even though a minimum-wage worker would have to put in 81 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin, Walker's people saw no need to offer them a few pennies more.

Part of it is Walker's fealty to the restaurant industry. Part of it is his inaccurate belief that raising the minimum wage kills jobs. And part of it is nostalgia for the days when he was a lad earning his first paycheck under the Golden Arches. He made it. Why can't they?

"In America, it is one of the few places left in the world where it doesn't matter what class you were born into," Walker said in Iowa in January. "It doesn't matter what your parents do for a living."

Except it does. Much of the new evidence on the causes of inequality finds that moving up from one class to the other

in America has gotten far more difficult. The rich, even doofus members of said class, get the right tutors that get them into the right schools where they make connections to get the right jobs. They never face the peril of losing everything because of, say, a large medical bill, or the dead weight of a college loan.

As for Walker's outdated take on wages and prosperity, he could look to states that have raised their minimum wage and are creating jobs at a faster pace than those holding to the lowest pay.

Meanwhile, Walker's low-wage fortress of Wisconsin lags behind the national average in job creation. If paying people next to nothing at the entry level were such a design for growth, employers would be flocking to the Badger State. Even Wal-Mart, which built the original business model for how to make billions on the backs of people who need state assistance for basic things, will soon be paying its serfs more than Scott Walker thinks is necessary to live on.

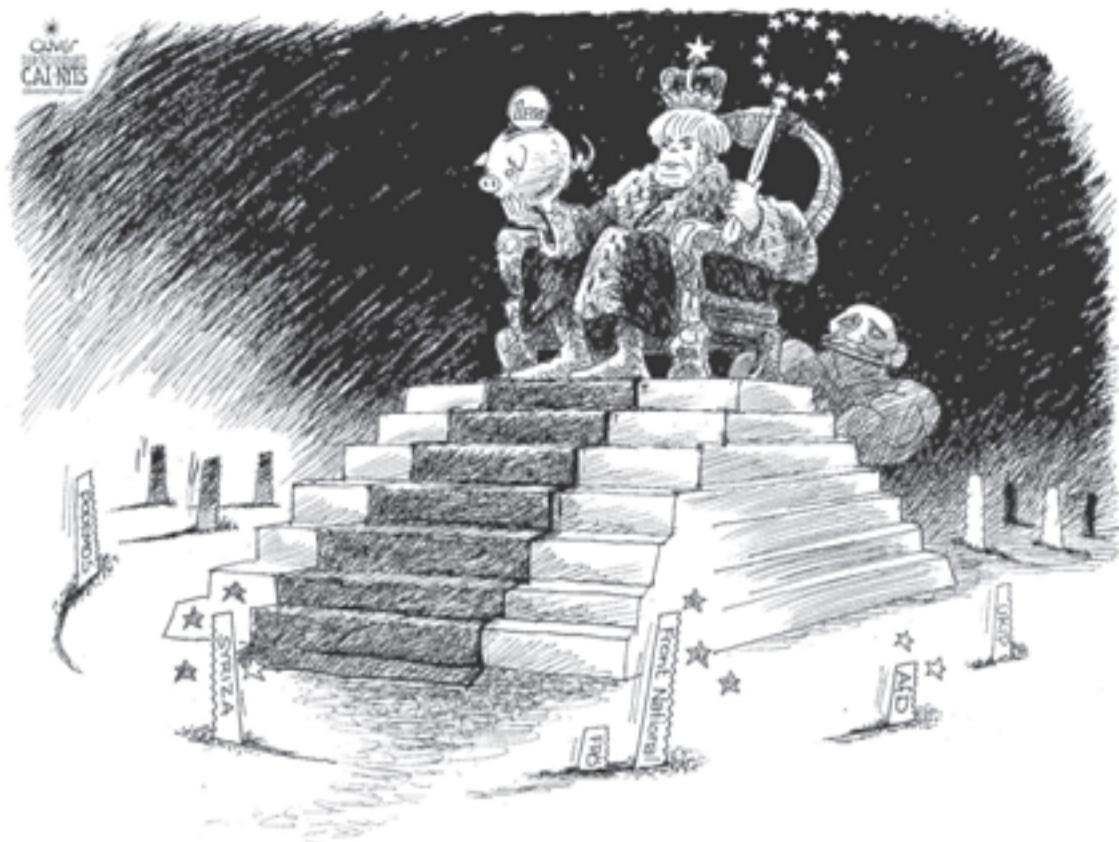
Ernst loves to talk about growing up in the rosy patina of near-poverty. "My mom made all our clothes," she wrote on her campaign website. "We went to church every week, helped our neighbors when they needed it, and they did the same for us."

See, you deadbeats: Why can't you just stitch together your own clothes and grab an extra chicken wing at the church picnic if you're hungry? Of course, she opposed raising Iowa's minimum wage. And she thinks subsidizing health care for lower-middle-class families is a terrible idea. She's working, with most Republicans in Congress, to take away health care for millions of Americans. Bartender Boehner was probably a decent dude at happy hour. But Speaker of the House Boehner has no tolerance for the kind of folks who might have wandered into his family tavern after losing a job. As people in one state after another vote to raise their minimum wage - red states and blue - Boehner will not allow a simple vote on that most basic pay principle to take place in the House. He once said he'd commit suicide rather than vote to raise the minimum wage.

Giving the people who flip burgers, clean floors and stock grocery shelves a few dimes more an hour is not a handout. Offering working people some help on their insurance premiums does not promote dependence. Nor do those things hurt the economy - just the opposite.

So where is this coming from? The class traitors guiding the Republican Party, and the harsh new federal budget unveiled this week, usually promote policies with personal anecdotes. Their condescension toward the poor springs from their own narratives:

They are virtuous because they made it, or vice versa. Those who haven't made a similar leap are weaklings. It's a variant of Mitt Romney's view that 47 percent of Americans are moochers. Stripped to its essence, it's a load of loathing for their former class, delivered on a plate of platitudes. □



A Woman's Place Is on the \$20 Bill



GAIL COLLINS

© 2015 New York Times

You may have heard that there's a movement afoot to kick Andrew Jackson off the \$20 bill and replace him with a woman. Finally, we've got a current event that's not depressing.

The only woman who has ever shown up on American paper currency - not counting Lady Liberty - is Martha Washington, who starred on an 1886 silver certificate. The fact that it was Martha adds insult to injury. She was an excellent first lady, but her exceptional fame is tied to the ancient idea that the greatest women were simply the ones married to the greatest men. (An alternative theory was that the greatest women were the mothers of the greatest men, and George Washington's mother was equally celebrated, even though her son found her extremely irritating.)

Now, a website called "Women on 20s" has posted biographies of 15 notable women in American history and invited visitors to vote for a female face to put in Jackson's place. The goal is to get the job done by the anniversary of women's suffrage in 2020. "Oh, my gosh! We're just going crazy here," said Susan Ades Stone, who has been running the project along with Barbara Ortiz Howard, a New York businesswoman. Things do sound

satisfyingly hectic. The vote total recently passed 100,000; the overstressed website has gotten balky; and Stone, a journalist, has been on the phone so incessantly her husband has temporarily left home.

Amazing this idea hasn't come up sooner. "Australians have a man on one side of each note and a woman on the other," said Matthew Wittmann of the American Numismatic Society. "It's pretty remarkable we can't find a woman for any denomination."

The U.S. Treasury hasn't changed the faces on the bills since 1929, when Andrew Jackson elbowed out Grover Cleveland on the \$20. Why, you may be asking yourself, did they pick Jackson? And why was Grover Cleveland there to begin with? Nobody seems to know.

Among the bills that are circulating now, the featured faces are all Founding Fathers (Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin) plus Jackson, Lincoln and Ulysses Grant, who graces the \$50 bill. "Women on 20s" picked Jackson to depose mainly because of his horrific history with Native Americans, although there's also the rather blissful note that Jackson disapproved of paper currency. The nominees for replacements were chosen from a list of 100 women by jurists who were asked to consider both achievement and obstacles overcome. That tends to weigh the choices toward political warriors - like Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Sanger - rather than artists or athletes.

Recently The Times' Room for Debate let experts name their favorites. Gloria Steinem picked Sojourner Truth, the escaped slave turned abolitionist orator. "I'm not sure Sojourner Truth would want to be on the \$20 bill, but I would like her to be better known - by any means necessary," she said.

Actually, I'd sort of love to see Gloria Steinem on a \$20 bill, but you aren't eligible to star on

American currency until you're dead. Also, she has mixed feelings about how much of an honor it is to appear on money. "For a while I thought we should just put the Koch brothers on and be done with it," she said over the phone Friday.

But this isn't the New Hampshire primary. It's more like a national post-graduate course in women's history. One of the best parts about the "Women on 20s" process is that it gives you a chance to complain about people who aren't in the final 15. Matthew Wittmann thinks Amelia Earhart might be a good contender. Steinem wanted a Native American, or in her words, "a woman who was here before all those bonkers, hierarchical, monotheistic, Europeans arrived."

The Native American issue looms large when it comes to replacing Jackson, who sent the Cherokee Nation on the Trail of Tears. Late- ly, Stone said, she and Howard have decided that when they announce their three top vote-getters and ask people to pick a winner, they're going to add a fourth option: Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. ("People felt it would be poetic justice.")

If I could add a nominee it might be Angelina Grimke, the great abolitionist orator. Or Sybil Ludington, who rode through New York one night in 1777 warning her countrymen the British were coming. (Just like Paul Revere, except Sybil was 16, and rode twice as far.) Or Margaret Brent, who used her business acumen to save the colony of Maryland from being destroyed by mercenary soldiers in 1647.

Or maybe Elizabeth Jennings, the black New Yorker who sued the trolley company that tossed her off a whites-only car in 1854 - a court action that led to the desegregation of mass transit in the city 100 years before Rosa Parks. But then, of course, you don't want to pass up Rosa Parks. There are thousands of possibilities. Nominate among yourselves. □

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Cocktail Table Service Thinks Big For a Change

ROBERT SIMONSON

© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - Whenever bartender Pamela Wiznitzer goes home to Ohio at Thanksgiving, her family naturally enlists her to make drinks.

Pleasing everyone isn't easy, so a few years ago, she hatched a one-size-fits-all solution: setting out a pitcher containing every cocktail ingredient but the liquor, next to a few bottles of spirits, a bowl of ice and a jigger.

All were invited to mix their own, as big or small, light or boozy as they pleased. Wiznitzer thought, "Why haven't we done this at bars?"

Now she has. At Seamstress, the new Upper East Side cocktail bar where she is creative director, you can order from a number of cocktail setups, called Tailor Made, that serve two to six people. Pitchers of complex mixtures (like hibiscus, lemon juice,



Honeycut, a bar in downtown Los Angeles where patrons can buy a backpack holding a long glass tube filled with a cocktail, to dispense to themselves or friends, March 21, 2015.

(Axel Koester/The New York Times)

lemon liqueur, grapefruit soda and simple syrup) are paired with 375-milliliter bottles of various spirits, along with glasses, ice and garnishes.

A single big, shared drink makes sense in a business that is all about communal pleasures, but for years the options have mostly been limited to punch. Today, the punch bowl has grown

passé, it seems, as the bar industry becomes more inventive with what it calls "large format" drinks.

The Up & Up, a new subterranean bar on Macdougal Street in Greenwich Village, has a bottle service of sorts that delivers premixed martinis, manhattans or Negronis to the table in batches of 375 or 750 milliliters.

Dirty French, a restaurant

on the Lower East Side, recently introduced four large-form brunch drinks, including a pitcher of Bloody Marys that comes with enough side bites (oysters, shrimp, pickled okra and such) to constitute a meal.

Last summer, the NoMad Bar in Midtown introduced the "cocktail explosion," a jumbo concoction inside a glass urn that wouldn't have looked out of place inside the Crystal Palace. But the prize for conspicuous consumption goes to the Backpack Party, sold at Honeycut, a cocktail bar and nightclub in downtown Los Angeles.

"It's a frat-boy device that we repurposed," said Mary Bartlett, the assistant general manager.

The buyer straps on a pack that holds a long glass tube, which is filled with ice and, say, a blue Mai Tai variation. He then doles out the drinks via a long plastic nozzle. (Honeycut's

draft cocktails can also be bought by the bottle.)

Prices for these services vary from \$45 to \$150, and each drink ends up costing either the same as a single cocktail, or sometimes considerably less. But beyond saving the drinker a few bucks, these supersize beverages address several nagging barroom problems.

They serve a good number of people with minimal waiting time, and eliminate (for a spell, anyway) the need to reorder.

Chaim Dauermann, the head bartender at the Up & Up, recalled one customer who ordered a bottle of manhattans. Suddenly, two of his friends walked in. "He said, 'Here you are: Let me pour you a drink,'" Dauermann said. "Just like that." Mix-it-yourself options also answer every barfly's secret desire to play bartender. "People love being hands-on," Wiznitzer said. "So let them do the dirty work." □